



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022

No. 178

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. KUSTER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 17, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANN M. KUSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

JUST SAY NO TO EARMARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, the announcement of MIKE GARCIA's election makes it official: The American people have entrusted Republicans with the House majority.

They do so at a time of unprecedented fiscal peril for our country: 40-year high inflation, economic recession, and an approaching debt crisis, all driven by the most reckless spend-

ing in our Nation's history. History is screaming this warning at us: nations that bankrupt themselves aren't around very long.

Republicans must reclaim the mantle of fiscal integrity and fiscal responsibility, and we should start by renouncing the tawdry, corrupt, and irresponsible practice of congressional earmarks, in which individual Congressmen direct spending to pet projects in their districts or grants to favored supporters, bypassing merit-driven competition.

I have proposed to the House Republican Conference a rule forbidding congressional earmarks and expect a vote on it when we return after Thanksgiving.

Earmark supporters argue that the power of the purse rests with Congress; therefore, its elected Members, and not unelected bureaucrats, should make these decisions.

Well, no, not exactly. Representatives are supposed to be biased toward their districts; that is why Congress is designed to act collectively. Ever since Magna Carta, it has been a settled principle of good governance that the power to appropriate funds should be separated from the power to spend them.

This is at the heart of the constitutional separation of powers: Congress appropriates funds but cannot spend them; and the President spends funds but cannot appropriate them. This is the single most important protection we have against political corruption and pork barrel spending. Earmarks undermine this principle, and it is no coincidence that most of the congressional scandals over the years have involved earmarks.

A local company produces a product the Pentagon neither needs nor wants. So what to do? Well, it simply ingratiate itself with the local Congressman and has him tell the Pentagon what it needs and who will provide it.

Then it rewards him lavishly at election time and repeats.

Worthy projects, in open competitive bidding, do not need earmarks; they rise or fall on their merits. And if there is such a thing as a "good" earmark, the price to be paid is all the bad ones. That is a high price indeed.

Just the last omnibus spending bill in March included nearly 5,000 congressional earmarks totaling \$9 billion for some of the most egregious examples of waste in the Federal budget: feral swine management in Arkansas, a national atomic testing museum in Las Vegas, a sheep experiment station in Idaho.

Now, Members can and should advocate for their districts, and make the case for projects they deem worthy of the money that Congress has appropriated. The problem with earmarks is blurring these two rules and having Members both advocate and decide.

Now, many say they don't trust this President and his deputies to administer these funds appropriately and evenhandedly, and I agree. But if you don't trust the President to administer the funds that we appropriate, then don't give him the money, period.

We hear that earmarks simply assure that local governments get a fair break. No, what they actually do is turn the Federal budget into a grab bag for local pork spending by the most powerful Members in Congress; and they undermine the central tenet of federalism: that local projects should be financed by local communities and Federal spending reserved for the Nation's general welfare.

When a local government proposes an earmark, what is it saying? It is saying the project is so low on its priority list it doesn't dare spend its own taxpayers' money. But it is perfectly happy to have taxpayers in other communities foot the bill.

The result is a long list of dubious projects that rob St. Petersburg to pay

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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St. Paul for projects that St. Petersburg doesn't benefit from, and St. Paul doesn't deem worthy enough to spend its own money on.

Finally, it is said that earmarks can "grease" legislation by buying off the votes of individual Members. Add a few local projects for that Member, and suddenly a bill he would never vote for on its merits becomes a local imperative overriding his sound judgment. But explain to me, how is that a good thing?

Our new majority needs to make a dramatic, concrete, and credible statement that business as usual in Washington is over. Is there a more powerful statement we can make than to swear off this wasteful and corrupting practice of congressional earmarking?

AMERICA, WE HAVE LIFT OFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOTO. America, we have lift off. In a surge of fire, thunder, and smoke, Artemis I lit the early morning sky and was launched into the cosmos. At 9 million pounds of thrust, Artemis I is the most powerful rocket ever launched from the Earth. I was honored to see this historic flight firsthand early yesterday morning.

Now, after 50 years, America takes its first major step toward going back to the Moon; and we are bringing our many international partners with us, including the EU, Japan, Canada, and other allies.

In Central Florida, we locals beam with pride that Artemis launched from the storied 39B pad from Cape Canaveral.

This first mission was a long time in the making. The Orion spacecraft began to be developed during the Constellation program from 2005-2010.

In 2017, I was proud to vote formally to establish the Artemis program. Over the next 5 years, America got to work, including every State. Many Central Floridians helped build or assemble the Orion capsule, the Space Launch System, the crawler transporter, and other components.

During that 5-year period, NASA and SpaceX also kept busy on another key project, launching the Crew Dragon spacecraft. On May 30, 2020, I saw, firsthand, Astronauts Bob and Doug launch in the Spacecraft Endeavour and dock at the International Space Station. This was the first crewed launch from American soil in 9 years.

Since then, we have seen multiple SpaceX and Blue Origin crewed flights. Travel in low Earth orbit to and from ISS is now a regular occurrence in Central Florida.

With these flights well in hand, NASA turned its efforts toward deep space exploration once again. As the most powerful rocket ever to fly from the Earth, we knew the first Artemis launch would never be easy. But America never gives up.

It turned out that, after two scrubbed launches, the third time was the charm. As I stand here this morning, the Orion spacecraft just had its next burn to set it on a course for a lunar flyby. The closest approach to the Moon will be on November 21, before entering a distant retrograde orbit around the moon on November 25. It will roughly travel 1.3 million miles, farther than any other crew-designed spacecraft that has ever traveled.

It is a test flight, of course, so we will push Orion's capabilities to the maximum to ensure it is safe for future astronauts. Then Orion will return to the Earth in about 25½ days. After that, NASA will construct extensive evaluations of the returning Orion capsule.

From there, the future of crewed lunar spaceflight will begin to accelerate. In 2024, *Artemis II* will be the first crewed launch around the Moon in a new craft. In 2025, *Artemis III* crew will have the first woman and next man land on the Moon. And in 2027, *Artemis IV* will dock with the Lunar Gateway Space Station and begin our permanent presence on the Moon.

We will seek to discover water, learn from the harsh lunar environment, and advance new technologies. By the 2030s, these experiences and innovations will help us prepare to go to Mars and beyond.

For today, let us take a moment to appreciate and thank the tremendous accomplishments of Administrator Bill Nelson and the amazing people at NASA. Yesterday was a critical milestone in our country's space history. This is a first major step for America to go back to the Moon, and then on to Mars and beyond.

CONGRATULATING JASON MAREE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Jason Maree of Northern Cambria, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Maree had his Pass in Review for the United States Navy, an important step in passing basic training and becoming a sailor.

To his family and those who know him well, Jason is a driven and dedicated person. When he graduated from Northern Cambria High School this spring, he knew military service was the best avenue for his life.

Coming from a family where his mother is retired from the Army, and his grandfather served in the Marine Corps, Jason naturally felt a call to serve after high school.

Prior to serving in the United States Navy, Jason was an active member of his community and served on the Northern Cambria Volunteer Recreation Board.

We are thankful, both as a community, and as a Nation, for Jason Maree

and for all those who are serving in our military.

Congratulations on becoming a sailor in the United States Navy, Jason.

CONGRATULATING AMY SHIELDS

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Amy Shields of the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group, or AHUG, on being named to the Pennsylvania top 100 in agriculture list.

The hardwood forest products industry represents a major part of Pennsylvania's economy. Pennsylvania's Allegheny Plateau region alone produces 80 percent of the cherry hardwood supply of the entire world.

This is a critical ingredient for producing furniture and home goods for customers at home and abroad. This industry is fortunate to have their interests represented by Amy Shields, who is the current Executive Director of AHUG and the voice of the timber industry in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Shields is a longtime veteran of the timber industry and has been a tireless advocate for business across 14 counties in Northern Pennsylvania.

Because of her efforts, loggers, sawmills, and hardwood manufacturers can continue to provide the highest-quality forest products to the world.

Congratulations, Amy, on this great accomplishment.

CONGRATULATING THE PENNSYLVANIA 4-H DAIRY JUDGING TEAM

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pennsylvania 4-H Dairy Judging Team on their top honors at the 100th National 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest at the World Dairy Expo.

In October, the Pennsylvania team traveled to Madison, Wisconsin, to compete in the dairy cattle judging contest. The Pennsylvania team was made up of four members, with Ellie Curtis of Warren County representing the Pennsylvania 15th Congressional District.

Their hard work paid off. Ellie Curtis placed fourth overall with the Ayrshires. As a team, Pennsylvania was first for overall placing for Jerseys. They ranked second in oral reasons, Brown Swiss and Guernseys, third for Ayrshires, and fifth for Holsteins.

As a result of their victory, the team has qualified to represent the United States this summer at the International Dairy Judging Contest in Glasgow, Scotland.

Congratulations to Ellie and the entire Pennsylvania 4-H Dairy Judging Team.

CONGRATULATING THE INDIANA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Indiana County Conservation District on their 75th anniversary celebration.

Since 1947, the Indiana County Conservation District, or ICCD, has been protecting the natural resources of Indiana County and working to improve

the quality of life for current and future generations.

The ICCD and its dedicated employees and volunteers use education, technical assistance, and partnerships with local businesses to work toward a prosperous sustainable future.

Today, the ICCD implements a wide variety of projects dealing with agricultural land preservation, environmental education, and wildlife management. All these efforts have helped to teach the importance of conservation to residents of all ages in Indiana County.

The ICCD formally celebrated their 75th anniversary on October 7 with an open house at their headquarters in Indiana, Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Indiana County Conservation District on 75 years of protecting the environment and ensuring that Indiana County continues to be a great place to live.

□ 1015

HONORING TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Transgender Awareness Week.

Each and every day, our trans friends and neighbors fight to make their voices heard, to demand their basic human rights, and to live free from increasing dehumanizing and hateful attacks. Their spirit and fight deserve to be celebrated this week and every week.

Madam Speaker, we stand with the trans community and join their fight to live openly and authentically without fear of discrimination. We also must not ignore the horrific violence targeting the trans community.

Sunday marks Transgender Day of Remembrance as we honor the at least 32 transgender or gender-nonconforming Americans who have been killed this year and commit to doing all in our power to end this bigoted violence.

As co-chair of the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus' Transgender Equality Task Force, I will never stop working to uplift the voices and visibility of trans Americans and shine the light on injustices this community faces.

To my friends in the trans community, I want to let you know that you are seen, you are heard, and you have allies here in Congress.

REOPEN THE CAPITOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, today, I am here to talk about reopening the very building in which we stand, the United States Capitol.

It has been 2½ years since Speaker PELOSI closed the people's House and told Americans it was part of our united effort to stop COVID-19. Over the last year, we have seen a sharp decline in hospitalizations and deaths from COVID. In fact, just 2 months ago, President Biden even declared the pandemic was over. Yet, certain protocols remain from the height of the pandemic.

Today, when constituents come to visit my office, they need to be personally escorted around by staff. They have to be a small group. They can't go to the House gallery to watch votes take place, and my staff is only allowed to give a tour once a week.

If the Speaker is really trying to prevent the spread of COVID, why is she forcing people to gather in large crowds around security checkpoints?

This is the people's House, yet we continue to deny access to the people, the very people who elected us to serve them, the very people whose taxes fund our operations.

Because of these regulations, I have had to turn several of my constituents away. Not only do these regulations make it difficult to welcome every group into my office, but it also affects the function of all House offices.

I have multiple visitors a day, and each time they come in, I have to send one of my staffers to find that visitor in a crowd of people, wait in a long security line, and then escort them through the House office buildings. It is inefficient and takes staff away from the valuable work they should be doing on behalf of the people of Arkansas.

To top it all off, none of this makes any sense. Why does one of my staffers need to escort someone who has already been cleared by security into the building? How does this protect against COVID-19? What is so dangerous about allowing visitors the ability to watch their government function? How can we claim to be a transparent government when we prohibit access to their elected officials?

It is far past time to truly open up the Capitol to the people and restore its operation to prepandemic times. We cannot afford to keep distance between the American people and their elected Representatives.

These regulations prevent constituents from freely visiting their Representatives and hinder productivity in our offices, and none of it makes us any safer.

The people are an important part of the legislative process. In fact, they are the reason for it. Madam Speaker, they should be welcomed here.

INVESTING IN ZERO-EMISSION SHIPPING TECHNOLOGIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, it was an honor to join Speaker PELOSI

with the congressional delegation to Egypt to the United Nations' annual climate conference, COP27.

Our bottom-line message to world leaders: America is all in to fight the climate crisis. We stand with our global partners to reduce emissions, go green, and meet our goals under the Paris climate agreement.

Shipping emissions is one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases in the world. Congress has acted with the Inflation Reduction Act. Record climate investments are included in the IRA to accelerate our transition to a clean energy future. That includes a \$3 billion investment from my bill, the Climate Smart Ports Act, to reduce emissions from ports across the country.

As someone who represents the Port of Los Angeles, I know firsthand the work we must do to go zero emissions and commit with other countries to reduce shipping emissions through the Green Shipping Challenge.

To get there at the speed and scale necessary, it is critical that Congress invest in zero-emission shipping technologies and provide the EPA with the resources to regulate emissions from ships.

Working together, we can exceed our 2030 emissions reduction target and take collective action to save our planet.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. During this month, we honor the millions of Americans living with Alzheimer's, including my mom, along with selfless family members and caregivers.

The nearly 6 million people with Alzheimer's are our sisters, our brothers, our parents, our grandparents, our neighbors, and our fellow Americans.

This epidemic will only continue to grow. In the next 30 years, the number of Americans with Alzheimer's is expected to reach nearly 14 million.

Fortunately, we are at an inflection point in scientific progress where life-changing treatments may become available, but they also need to be affordable, and we need to continue to invest in research.

That is why I am introducing a bill this month to improve access to new, innovative Alzheimer's treatments that become available. I will continue to work with CMS to ensure all drugs receive fair and accurate consideration for Medicare coverage.

Our fight against this heartbreaking disease is nowhere near done.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Family Caregivers Month. Today, more than one in five Americans provide care to someone with health or functional needs.

Caregivers are the backbone of our families and communities. They are

our coworkers, siblings, parents, grandparents, and neighbors.

Their service and sacrifice for our families and country are essential and immeasurable work, but their contributions are often overlooked and undervalued.

Caregiving requires time, money, resources, and patience. It can take a toll on a caregiver's physical and mental health.

As a caregiver for my own mom, I want every family caregiver to know that you are not alone, that we are in this with you. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. You deserve to feel celebrated.

We must do more to ensure that you have the support that you need. You have a champion in Congress who will fight for higher wages and better benefits for you.

We must continue to invest in programs like IHSS and WPCS so that our elders can stay home and have the dignity to be in their homes in their later years and be taken care of.

Thank you again to all the caregivers out there for everything you do.

HONORING LEWIS SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Staff Sergeant Lewis Smith, affectionately known as Slugger and also very affectionately known as the Mayor of Washington Mills, who recently passed away at the age of 99.

Lew was born in Washington Mills, New York, in 1922 and graduated from Sauquoit Valley Central School in 1940.

After the terrible attacks on Pearl Harbor, Lew immediately signed up to fight for our country in the United States Air Force, with what at the time was known as the 13th Army Air Corps 307th Bombardment Group in the South Pacific.

A member of the Greatest Generation, Lew honorably served our country in World War II, completing 50 combat missions in the South Pacific with, as I said, the 13th Army Air Corps 307th Bombardment Group.

He wrote a wonderful book chronicling his experience in the war, which I highly recommend to everyone who is interested in finding out what it was really like to just be an average member of the Air Force, enlisting and learning and growing and sacrificing.

After the war, Lew came home to Washington Mills and married the love of his life, Jane, on May 5, 1945, after moving to Denver to complete Lew's military service.

The couple moved back to Washington Mills, where they would live together for 76 years until Jane's passing in 2021.

Upon moving back to Washington Mills, Lew worked as a welder for Utica Structural Steel before taking over his father-in-law's service stations with

his two sons. Later, Lew would take on positions as a maintenance man for the town of New Hartford highway and police departments.

On top of his service as a mechanic, Lew also served our community as one of the founding members of the Willowvale Fire Company Inc., serving since 1950, and as the leader of the Clonan Post 1000 American Legion.

Lew was a wonderful person, a dear friend, and a tremendous community servant. I thank him and his family for their friendship and for the lifetime of service and commitment to our community by the entire family.

He was truly a special gem in our community like no other person. Probably my greatest inspiration, other than my own father, Lew was a person of great integrity, great honesty, who gave wonderful, sage advice to everyone he met. He was also one of the kindest people and one of the most caring, giving people I have met in my life.

I thank him and his family and his wonderful wife, Jane, for all the wonderful times and, actually, great experiences I had and their support of our community and all those people who serve in the fire service and police service and serve our Nation in uniform.

He truly embodied our Greatest Generation, and he is sorely missed by our community.

HONORING EDWARD BRADLEY

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Bradley of Chadwicks, New York, who passed away earlier this week.

Edward was a lifelong resident of the Utica area and dedicated his life to serving our community and his family. He worked for several companies in the area, including James Donovan Roofing and Mohawk Containers, where he worked for 40 years. Incidentally, James Donovan was one of our New York State senators from our region.

On top of his work, Edward was also a 50-year member of the Willowvale Fire Company, where he served previously as president and vice president. He also served as a member of the Oneida County Fire Police and the State director of the New York State Fire Police Association, and he was honored by the Willowvale Fire Company with the very prestigious Ironman Award.

Edward was also a member of the Utica Elks Lodge and was nominated by the United Way of the Mohawk Valley for the 100 Heroes of the Mohawk Valley, recognizing his tremendous and honorable, dedicated service to our community.

Edward, thank you for your lifetime of service, and may your memory continue to be a blessing to all of us and the new generations of people that come after us.

We will never forget your commitment to our region, and your family remains in our thoughts and prayers. Your department is in great hands. They learned from truly the best.

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today during National Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month, a time when the pain and grief of loss should be honored with action, to read the words and the plea of a heartbroken mother and a Pennsylvania 5 constituent, Molly Collington, who lost her son, Sam, to gun violence a year ago on November 28, 2021.

By all accounts, Sam Collington was a remarkable young man who left an outsized impact on our community.

His mother, Molly, shared her story with me earlier this fall when I met with her and her colleagues at Delaware County's Moms Demand Action chapter. I was deeply moved by her advocacy in the face of unimaginable loss and grief, and I am sharing her words with her permission now.

"My name is Molly Collington. I am Sam Collington's brokenhearted mother.

"Sam was the best son any mother could ever ask for. He was kind, smart, reliable, and without a doubt, one of the funniest people to ever walk this Earth.

"Sam was murdered on November 28, 2021. The day began with Sam loading up his father's car with clean laundry, some leftover turkey, and supplies to carry him through the rest of the semester.

"He was returning to his apartment at Temple University after the Thanksgiving weekend. He planned to drop the items off at his apartment, then return home to watch HBO with me, sleep in his own bed, and then take the train back to school Monday morning. That did not happen.

"Because on his street, near his apartment, was a career criminal with an illegal gun waiting to steal the car of the next person that drove down the street. The next person was my Eagle Scout son, Sam. Sam was shot four times and died less than 30 minutes later at Temple Hospital.

"Sam was so knowledgeable about our country and all its history. He knew every single President and could talk for hours about politics. So it was no surprise when he told his father and I that he wanted to study political science at Temple University after high school. His fervor for politics and government started very young. He proudly served as his high school's president for his junior and senior year.

"During his time at Temple, he served as the president of the Political Science Society, never missing an opportunity to make each day count.

"He planned to attend law school and study constitutional law. He was an activist.

"He campaigned for local politicians and interned at city hall where he worked with elections. He was responsible for getting hundreds of people

registered to vote, on and off campus. He was a poll watcher.

“He even went on a ‘Bernie Journey’ where he rode with fellow Temple students on a schoolbus to North and South Carolina to campaign for his favorite politician, BERNIE SANDERS.

“Sam truly believed in the ‘not me, us’ mantra, which is why he was so outspoken in his love of politics and striving for a better world.

“Sam had a larger-than-life personality. As one of his professors pointed out: ‘It is impossible to be involved in the Political Science Department and not know Sam Collington.’

“He became known on campus as ‘Poly-Sci Sam.’

“To lose a child is the greatest pain any parent can ever experience. Every day, my heart breaks all over again. To lose a child like Sam, knowing that he was destined for something big, is absolutely soul-crushing. How his father, sister, and I are still standing seems impossible to believe. He made us better people just by knowing him. We are destroyed without him, his cheerfulness, his wit, and his intelligence.

“One of the hardest parts is knowing my son’s murder was preventable. Our children should be able to go to school safely. We should not have to worry about making sure they know where the closest exits are at the movie theaters, supermarkets, concerts, and churches.

“I implore our elected officials to do more to keep guns out of the wrong hands.

“We must do better. We have to do better. We are failing our children.

“They say time heals all wounds, but I can tell you without any doubt whatsoever, not this one.”

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, there is no denying that the crisis at our southern border was caused by President Biden and his administration’s open-border policies.

Since President Biden took office, more than 3.8 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended at our southern border. Meanwhile, the commissioner of Customs and Border Protection was falling asleep during meetings while this crisis continued on his watch.

This is exactly why, around 2 weeks ago, I joined 15 of my fellow House Republicans, led by Congressman HICE, in calling on CBP Commissioner Magnus to resign. Thankfully, he did, and now our country and its national security are better off.

Already, before Republicans even officially take the majority, we are holding the Biden administration accountable.

I promise that come January 3, when the new Congress is sworn in, you can

expect more accountability where that came from.

PRESIDENT BIDEN’S STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS HANDOUT

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office has confirmed what most Tennesseans already knew. President Biden’s plan to give a handout to millions of college-educated Americans will be paid for with even more deficit spending than anticipated, around \$400 billion in deficit spending to be exact.

This is just as shocking: The President thinks it is acceptable and legal to spend this kind of money without congressional approval. But it is neither.

We hear \$10,000 per borrower thrown around a lot, but the CBO says 24 million people would receive \$20,000 in debt forgiveness under the plan. That is basically a 2022 Hyundai Elantra or a Kia Soul or a brand-new Nissan Sentra.

I ask my Democrat colleagues: How are you okay with giving away the equivalent of a new car to 24 million people and asking those without student debt to foot the bill, asking Tennessee plumbers to foot the bill for Harvard-educated lawyers, asking America’s blue-collar workers to give a subsidy to some of the best-educated people and best-paid people in this country?

This administration must reverse course on this wrong-headed, regressive policy.

CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE RESTRAINED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the need for us to prohibit the physical restraining of young children as a form of discipline in schools.

Shockingly, in the 2017 through 2018 school year, nearly 71,000 elementary school-aged children were physically restrained. Even worse, 80 percent of the restrained children were kids with disabilities, some younger than 5 years old, even though they only make up 13 percent of the student population.

In Texas, 91 percent of all reported restraints are experienced by children with disabilities. Regrettably, children who are Latino and Black are at much higher risk of being restrained.

Since 2020, nearly 20 fatalities have occurred because of poor restraining techniques and children’s bodies simply being too small to endure this form of discipline. This is simply heart-breaking and is totally unacceptable.

It doesn’t appear to be slowing down. Just this month, Moesha Baker, a mother from the Houston Independent School District, received a letter from her 4-year-old son’s elementary school and was told that he had been restrained at school. Ms. Baker learned 2 days after the incident that this restraining had been unjustified and that

the teacher was on administrative leave.

This is a very deeply troubling case. Fortunately, her son was not physically hurt, but think of the emotional scars that he must endure. This is, again, totally unacceptable.

Many times children are hurt, like a 10-year-old student from a charter school in Waco, Texas, who sadly was restrained to the point that he actually had a broken arm in four places when he was restrained last month. The child had a learning disability.

Madam Speaker, put yourself in the shoes of these families. One minute, you are hugging your child, saying goodbye, they are off to school. The next minute, you get a call that your child has been restrained, put in handcuffs or zip-tied as a form of discipline. This is flat wrong, it is inhumane, and it must stop.

Madam Speaker, today, I will be introducing my resolution called the No Kids in Cuffs Resolution to encourage local and State governments to prohibit this practice.

Young children who are restrained are more likely to experience short-term and long-term problems in sleep, learning, relationships, and trust. In fact, being restrained is so traumatic that it even impedes a child’s development. Many of them go on to struggle with suicidal thoughts and are forced to live with post-traumatic anxiety. All of this on top of the physical pain that they may experience.

While the children clearly must be the first we protect, sometimes teachers, administrators, and officers are also at risk of developing trauma from just simply witnessing a child being restrained to the degree that their little arm is broken in four places. It is hard to endure, it is hard to witness, and this trauma must end.

Let’s make sure no other parent must endure what Ms. Baker and thousands of others families must go through. Let’s begin the conversation of prohibiting the physical restraining of children. Let’s put children over restraints. Let’s put books over cuffs.

That is why I am introducing today, Madam Speaker, the No Kids in Cuffs Resolution, and I ask all my colleagues to help me. We must end this practice. Children should focus on their books and their learning, not on cuffs and trauma.

HONORING JOANNA ROWE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, today, I come to the floor to honor a member of my team who has devoted the past 18 years to serving the constituents of North Carolina’s 10th Congressional District, serving it with integrity and honor, especially for veterans and servicemembers.

It is my true honor today to pay tribute to my friend and my lead veterans

and military caseworker, Joanna Rowe, who is retiring at the end of the year. Joanna has been with me since the beginning of my service here in the House in the beginning of 2005. Since day one, anyone who encountered Joanna instantly knew her passion for our veterans.

We had veterans line up just to go sit down and talk to Joanna and have a conversation with her because of her warm spirit and what a wonderful person she is, and everyone understood that very quickly.

The numbers tell that story about her passion for our veterans. During her service, Joanna has handled just shy of 6,000 veterans' cases and 362 Active-Duty military cases. She has helped 106 veterans obtain medals they were due for their service. She played an important role in helping establish the VA community-based outpatient clinics in Hickory and in Forest City, North Carolina, and was a key resource to county veterans service officers in 17 different counties during her service.

Susan Hall, the veterans service officer in Rutherford County, said of Joanna: "Joanna's commitment to serving the veterans of our community is exemplary. I will miss her greatly. The Congressman, as well as the people of Rutherford County and the great State of North Carolina have been blessed with the service of Joanna Rowe."

Joanna will be missed and will be missed by so many, not just the veterans, but her coworkers who love her dearly. And not just her coworkers, but me. Being able to work with her and to call her a friend and to learn from her has meant a great deal to me and to my wife Julia, as well as my kids.

So we want to thank her for her service. I thank her for her loving spirit and the strength of her faith.

It seems like just yesterday that she and I and her husband, Freddy, sat down for lunch in the fall of 2003 to talk about politics. I learned a lot during that first election to Congress from Joanna, and I thank her for her service and thank her for her friendship.

Joanna, we know you won't be a stranger. Thanks so much. We love you.

CELEBRATING MINNESOTA WINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I want to start out by thanking my community for reelecting me to serve Minnesota's Fifth Congressional District.

Our State continues to have the highest voter turnout in the Nation. It is one of the easiest States to vote in and should be a model for States across the country.

In my district, we increased our voter share by 10 percentage points from 2020, and we got more votes than any other House candidate in Minnesota.

Beyond that, Minnesotans voted to flip the Minnesota Senate, creating a

Democratic trifecta for the first time in nearly a decade.

We also voted for incredible new leaders throughout our State that have many firsts behind their names.

Bobby Joe Champion will be the first Black president of the Minnesota Senate.

Zaynab Mohamed will be the first African-born Somali woman and Gen Z member to be elected to the Minnesota Senate.

Along with Zaynab, Clare Oumou Verbeten and Erin Maye Quade will be among the first Black women elected to the Minnesota Senate.

Samantha Sencer-Mura will be the first Japanese-American member of the Minnesota House.

Leigh Finke will be the first trans member of the Minnesota House.

Mary Moriarty will be the first openly gay woman elected to be the Hennepin County attorney.

□ 1045

Representation matters. We know none of these candidates ran to be the "first." They ran to make a difference for their communities.

When I was first elected to the Minnesota House, I was the first and only Somali-American legislator. Now there will be 11 Somali-American legislators across the country. It is often said, you can't be what you can't see. I am incredibly proud that we, along with so many others, have been able to inspire countless people to run for office. So now many more people will finally see themselves reflected in various places and positions of power.

I also want to take a moment to honor two of my mentors, Representative Jim Davnie and Senator Patricia Torres Ray, who are retiring from the Minnesota State House and Senate. I thank them for representing our communities so well over the years. I can't wait to see the work they continue to do to make sure our State thrives.

As we get ready to welcome in new leaders throughout our State, this is our time to deliver meaningful changes for Minnesotans. Now is the time to deliver affordable childcare, lower healthcare costs, invest in K-12 and higher education, combat the climate crisis, and legalize marijuana.

Minnesota nice is leading with compassion and getting things done. Let's get to work.

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY ON MYANMAR

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the situation in Burma.

It has been my honor this year to be a member of the International Parliamentary Inquiry on Myanmar. Our group of lawmakers representing Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America released our final report earlier this month, which I will submit as an extension of my remarks.

The tragedy of the Burmese military coup is immense, but the resilience of the Burmese people and their move-

ment for democracy is deeply inspiring. The United States must recognize the National Unity Government as the legitimate government of Burma and never give legitimacy to the coup leaders.

But we should also be clear that the National Unity Government must include Rohingya representation to be legitimate. The international community has not done nearly enough to support the democratic aspirations of the Burmese people. We must lead by example while we still have time.

OUR BODIES, OUR CHOICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, when the Supreme Court voted to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, I was totally outraged. We knew that that day was coming, and as horrific as it was and is, we were ready. But I was not alone in that outrage.

Madam Speaker, over the past few weeks, the American people took their outrage, and they turned it into action. From Kentucky to California, red States to blue, our constituents made their voices heard, and their message is clear.

Americans trust people, not politicians, to make their own decisions about their health and their lives, including about abortion. Americans will use their vote to strike down attacks on reproductive rights time and time again and, yes, support reproductive freedom. Madam Speaker, it is time to turn our constituents' demands into congressional action.

To my Republican colleagues who try to claim their extremism as public opinion, we saw that the majority of American people are not buying it. I am determined to ensure that their voices are heard, to fight for all of our rights to make our own decisions over our bodies. I won't stop, and none of my colleagues here will stop, until the right to abortion is available and to keep politicians from interfering in our personal decisions about our bodies. We are going to keep fighting that this is available to everyone regardless of race, ZIP Code, or income. It is our bodies, and it is our choices.

CLIMATE CHANGE FUELING WILDFIRES

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the House amendment to S. 3902, the FIRE Act. I am proud to support this bill and thank my good friends and fellow Californians, Senator PADILLA and Congresswoman LOFGREN, for their leadership, and Chairman DEFAZIO and the Speaker for bringing it to the floor.

Communities across the world are feeling the impact of climate change, fueling wildfires and harming fragile ecosystems and communities.

I was privileged to be in Egypt last week for COP27, and it was very apparent and clear, and the voices were heard that we have got to address these

critical issues with regard to the climate crisis now.

I have directly witnessed the devastating effects of wildfires on homes and livelihoods in my community, which is why I am proud to support this bill and urge my colleagues to vote “yes” with me.

Current wildfires are growing larger and hotter, requiring urgent and robust action from the Federal Government. The FIRE Act allows FEMA to predeploy assets during high-risk times, improves relocation assistance for public infrastructure affected by fires, and ensures equity of assistance for Tribal communities and governments.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this amended bill.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BRANDON TSAI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Officer Brandon Tsai. He was a brave member of the Grand Prairie Police Department, and he died in the line of duty this past week.

Officer Tsai bravely protected the people of north Texas and the city of Grand Prairie since January of this year, after serving 5 years with the Los Angeles Police Department.

The Grand Prairie Police Department described Officer Tsai as a loving friend, a trusted colleague, and outstanding officer whose passion provided service to the public.

I join the entire north Texas community and all of his brothers and sisters in blue in all of the metroplex departments in keeping Officer Brandon Tsai's family, friends, and all of his colleagues at the city of Grand Prairie in our thoughts and prayers during this time.

RECONCILIATION AND RESTORATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to engage in a limited, but hopefully important, discussion about America's history and to encourage my colleagues for collaboration. It is in reference to H.R. 40, the Commission to Study Slavery and Develop Reparation Proposals.

I stand on the perspective of how important it is for us to engage in dialogue. We are hearing across America that Americans are frightened about the discussion of our differences.

This land was first held by the indigenous people, Native Americans. Every other group came to America, whether or not you are of European heritage, Hispanic heritage, Asian-Pacific, Southeast Asian, or whether you are African heritage. As a descendant of

enslaved Africans, we are the only group that came as slaves to this country and held in bondage for over 200 years.

You have not seen African Americans refuse their patriotism, refuse to serve. We have served in every war since the Revolutionary War.

You have never seen African Americans refuse to shed blood for the freedom of this country or to wear the uniform.

You have not seen us shy away from serving as firefighters and law enforcement, teachers, businesspersons, social justice leaders, such as Dr. King, John Lewis, and, yes, Malcolm X.

You have not seen us, as women—Rosa Parks, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Coretta Scott King—stand away from the fight. We have embraced freedom, justice, and equality.

You did not see us attack this most solid and somber institution, sacred, on January 6, 2021. We were not the masses that were trying to undermine democracy. In fact, in this last election, I stood on the premise of defending democracy, and I take no back seat to my love of this Nation.

And so I ask my colleagues, why do you in any way doubt the value and importance of H.R. 40? The purpose is to acknowledge the fundamental injustice and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery.

It was based on the premise of racism. There was, in fact, no compensation, no life insurance, no salaries. Slaves were born, lived, and died in slavery, never seeing freedom. They worked from sunup and beyond, and they worked until they fell dead in the fields.

They built this Nation. They built the United States Capitol. They built the White House. They, in fact, created an economic engine by making cotton king, and they created an economic engine by this transatlantic slave trade.

The traders decided to stop trading spices and gold and to use the human beings that they marched for 300 miles to weaken the slaves so they would not have a fight before getting on those ships. Many dropped into the watery grave before they got on. Many died in the dark passage.

But yet, here we are today.

And so this is not pointing the finger. This is not accusatory. This is, in fact, a reconciliation. I insist that we establish this commission, and we must establish it by a vote or establish it by executive order.

Reverend Mark Thompson, a political activist for social justice, said: If we were granted H.R. 40 by executive order, it would be America once and for all saying Black lives actually do matter and this Nation must be repaired. It is restoration and repair, but it stands on the basis of facts. There is no doubt that we have been impacted, that DNA in the trajectory of slavery to today.

For example, COVID, Black African Americans got COVID at a rate nearly 1½ times higher than that of White people, were hospitalized at a rate nearly 4 times higher, and 3 times more likely to die. COVID hit us very desperately.

Interestingly, a recent peer-reviewed study from Harvard Medical School suggests that reparations for African Americans could have cut COVID-19 transmission and infection rates both among Blacks and the population at large. Reparations are curative, they are not punishment. The analysis continued to look at data throughout the Nation.

And so as we move in this lame duck session, it is important that we come together for reconciliation, restoration, and provide the Commission to Study Slavery and to Develop Reparation Proposals.

I thank my colleagues for their support, and I believe together we make America strong, America free, America just, and America equal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to have authored H.R. 40, legislation that establishes a commission to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans. Congress must pass this bill to begin the process toward reconciliation with the Black community. I have also called upon President Biden to create the H.R. 40 Commission by Executive Order.

The purpose of H.R. 40 is to acknowledge the fundamental injustice and inhumanity of slavery in the U.S. and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent racial and economic discrimination against African Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African Americans. The Commission is also charged to make recommendations to Congress on appropriate remedies.

Now—more than ever—the timing is ripe for the enactment of H.R. 40. We have a President in the White House who has expressed his undeniable support and we urge President Biden to institute this executive order.

My Democratic colleagues in the 117th Congress and I have made historic strides in advancing H.R. 40 since it was first introduced in 1989 by the late Michigan Congressman Rep John Conyers. H.R. 40 garnered more support over the past 33 years; it has approximately 200 co-sponsors, including 25 U.S. senators. Also, it is supported by over 300 organizations and allies, including the National Conference of Mayors.

One of my top priorities for this lame duck session of Congress in November and December, regardless of who controls Congress, is to have H.R. 40 pass the House of Representatives because. This will send a message of broad support to President Biden and strengthen our hand in urging him to create the Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals through Executive Order.

Reparations are overdue. Our entire country needs reparations, to allow us to move forward as an untied society.

The concept of reparations is a well-established principle of international law, defined as the act or process of repairing or restoring.

It is payment for an injury; redress for a wrong done. In the context of Black people in

North America, the concept of reparations essentially constitutes four elements:

- 1) the formal acknowledgment of an historical wrong;
- 2) the recognition that there is a continuing injury;
- 3) the commitment to redress by the federal government which sanctioned the enslavement and subsequent discrimination; and
- 4) the actual compensation in whatever form or forms that are agreed upon.

The reparations movement does not focus on payments to individuals. The harms under discussion from the legacy of slavery and racial discrimination are seen in well-documented racial disparities in access to education, health care, housing, insurance, employment and other social goods.

Reparations settlements can be created in as many forms as necessary to equitably address the many forms of injury sustained from chattel slavery and its continuing vestiges.

Now—more than ever—the facts and circumstances facing our nation demonstrate the importance of H.R. 40 and the necessity of placing our nation on the path to reparative justice.

Reverend Mark Thompson, a political activist for social justice remarked “If we were granted H.R. 40 by executive order, it would be America once and for all saying Black lives actually do matter, and this nation must be repaired.” I along with many others share in the same sentiment.

The impact of the pandemic changed the nature of the conversation. COVID has devastated the African American community.

According to the latest estimates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, Black people get COVID-19 at a rate nearly one and a half times higher than that of white people, are hospitalized at a rate nearly four times higher, and are three times as likely to die from the disease.

Interestingly, a recent peer-reviewed study from Harvard Medical School suggests that reparations for African Americans could have cut COVID-19 transmission and infection rates both among Blacks and the population at large.

Their analysis, based on Louisiana data, determined that if reparations payments had been made before the COVID-19 pandemic, narrowing the wealth gap, COVID transmission rates in the state’s overall population could have been reduced by anywhere from 31 percent to 68 percent.

In 2019, we have also seen hundreds of thousands peacefully take to the streets in support of Black Lives and accountability for law enforcement. Many of those protesters carried signs in support of H.R. 40 and made the important link between policing and the movement for reparative justice.

Tragically, we have also witnessed insurrectionist attack this institution, brandishing symbols of division and intolerance, that echo back to the darkest periods of our nation’s history. Clearly, we require a reckoning to restore national balance and unity.

Four hundred years ago, ships set sail from the west coast of Africa and in the process, began one of mankind’s most inhumane practices: human bondage and slavery.

For two centuries, human beings—full of hopes and fears, dreams and concerns, ambition and anguish—were transported onto ships like chattel, and the lives of many forever changed.

The reverberations from this horrific series of acts—a transatlantic slave trade that touched the shores of a colony that came to be known as America, and later a democratic republic known as the United States of America—are unknown and worthy of exploration.

Approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and colonies that became the United States from 1619 to 1865.

The institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by the Government of the United States from 1789 through 1865.

American Slavery is our country’s original sin and its existence at the birth of our nation is a permanent scar on our country’s founding documents, and on the venerated authors of those documents, and it is a legacy that continued well into the last century.

The framework for our country and the document to which we all take an oath describes African Americans as three-fifths a person.

The infamous Dred Scott decision of the United States Supreme Court, issued just a few decades later, described slaves as private property, unworthy of citizenship.

And, a civil war that produced the largest death toll of American fighters in any conflict in our history could not prevent the indignities of Jim Crow, the fire hose at lunch counters and the systemic and institutional discrimination that would follow for a century after the end of the Civil War.

The mythology built around the Civil War has obscured our discussions of the impact of chattel slavery and made it difficult to have a national dialogue on how to fully account for its place in American history and public policy.

While it is nearly impossible to determine how the lives touched by slavery could have flourished in the absence of bondage, we have certain datum that permits us to examine how a subset of Americans—African Americans—have been affected by the callousness of involuntary servitude.

We know that in almost every segment of society—education, healthcare, jobs and wealth—the inequities that persist in America are more acutely and disproportionately felt in Black America.

This historic discrimination continues: African-Americans continue to suffer debilitating economic, educational, and health hardships including but not limited to having nearly 1,000,000 black people incarcerated; an unemployment rate more than twice the current white unemployment rate; and an average of less than 1/16 of the wealth of white families, a disparity which has worsened, not improved over time.

H.R. 40 follows the successful model of the reparations campaign for Japanese-Americans interned during WWII. The campaign began with a 1980 congressional bill establishing a commission to investigate the internment, evaluate and consider the amount and form reparations would take, and make recommendations to the Congress for remedy. Based on the Commission’s findings, President Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

In short, H.R. 40 is not about direct payments to individuals. The legislation creates the framework for a national discussion on the enduring legacy of slavery, and the complex web of discriminatory conduct sanctioned by the Federal government well into the 20th century, to begin the necessary process of atonement and recovery.

Assessing the quantifiable amount owed to Black citizens due to generational racism and injustice should be left in a commission’s hands.

H.R. 40 seeks to establish a national commission to examine the lasting economic effects of slavery, Jim Crow segregation, and racially discriminatory federal policies on income, wealth, educational, health, and employment outcomes; to pursue truth and promote racial healing; and to study reparations.

The committee should comprise of appointed members (seen in section 4) and pioneers in the field of reparatory justice.

I also support President Eiden in creating a reparations committee through executive action.

Given the political limitations of moving legislation in the Senate, an executive order is the only practical method for establishing an H.R. 40 commission.

Black household wealth is less than one fifth of the national average.

The median black household had a net worth of just \$17,600 in 2016. Yet in that same year, the median white household held \$171,000 in wealth while the national household median was \$97,300.

The black unemployment rate is 6.6 percent more than double the national unemployment rate.

Approximately 31 percent of black children live in poverty, compared to 11 percent of white children. The national average is 18 percent, which suggests that the percentage of black children living in poverty is more than 150 percent of the national average.

In the healthcare domain, the disparities suffered by African Americans is also troubling.

Over 20 percent of African Americans do not have health insurance, compared to a national average between 8.8 percent and 9.1 percent.

One in four African American women are uninsured.

Compared to the national average, African American adults are 20 percent more likely to suffer from asthma and three times more likely to die from it.

Black adults are 72 percent more likely to suffer from diabetes than average.

Black women are four times more likely to die from pregnancy related causes, such as embolisms, and pregnancy-related hypertension, than any other racial group.

In our nation, among children aged 19–35 months, black children were vaccinated at rates lower than white children: 68 percent versus 78 percent, respectively.

Education has often been called the key to unlocking social mobility.

African American students are less likely than white students to have access to college-ready courses.

In fact, in 2011–12, only 57 percent of black students have access to a full range of math and science courses necessary for college readiness, compared to 81 percent of Asian American students and 71 percent of white students.

Black students spend less time in the classroom due to discipline, which further hinders their access to a quality education.

Black students are nearly two times as likely to be suspended without educational services as white students.

Black students are also 3.8 times as likely to receive one or more out-of-school suspensions as white students.

In addition, black children represent 19 percent of the nation's preschool population, yet 47 percent of those receiving more than one out-of-school suspension.

In comparison, white students represent 41 percent of pre-school enrollment but only 28 percent of those receiving more than one out-of-school suspension.

Even more troubling, black students are 2.3 times as likely to receive a referral to law enforcement or be subject to a school-related arrest as white students.

School districts with the most students of color, on average, receive 15 percent less per student in state and local funding than the whitest districts.

And, of course, we cannot consider the disparities between black and white in America without considering the intersection of African Americans and the Criminal Justice system.

There are more Black men in bondage today who are incarcerated or under correctional control, than there were black men who were enslaved in the 1800s.

The United States locks up African American males at a rate 5.8 times higher than the most openly racist country in the world ever did:

South Africa under apartheid (1993), African American males: 851 per 100,000.

United States (2006), African American males: 4,789 per 100,000.

Incarceration is not an equal opportunity punishment. For example, incarceration rates in the United States by race were:

African Americans: 2,468 per 100,000.

Latinos: 1,038 per 100,000.

Whites: 409 per 100,000.

African American offenders receive sentences that are 10 percent longer than white offenders for the same crimes and are 21 percent more likely to receive mandatory-minimum sentences than white defendants according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

Looking at males aged 25–29 and by race, you can see what is going on even clearer:

For White males ages 25–29: 1,685 per 100,000.

For Latino males ages 25–29: 3,912 per 100,000.

For African American males ages 25–29: 11,695 per 100,000. (That's 11 percent of Black men in their late 20s.)

Looking at males aged 25–29 and by race, you can see what is going on even clearer:

For White males ages 25–29: 1,685 per 100,000.

For Latino males ages 25–29: 3,912 per 100,000.

For African American males ages 25–29: 11,695 per 100,000. (That's 11 percent of Black men in their late 20s.)

And African Americans are more likely to be victims of crimes.

Black children die from firearm homicides at a rate 10 times higher than their white counterparts.

Overall, one in 50 murders is ruled justified—but when the killer is white and the victim is a black man, the figure climbs to one in six.

A handgun homicide is nine times more likely to be found justified when the killer is white and the victim is a black man.

Handgun killings with a white shooter and a black male victim exhibit an even more dramatic bias: one in four is found justified.

But then again, we knew these inequities existed because for many Black Americans, these disparities are just a part of daily life.

Examined in the aggregate, they represent a stunning chasm between the destinies of White America and that of Black America.

This is why, in 1989, my predecessor as the most senior African American on this august Judiciary Committee, the honorable John Conyers, a past Chairman of this Committee introduced H.R. 40, legislation that would establish a commission to study and develop proposals attendant to reparations.

Though many thought it a lost cause, John Conyers believed that a day would come when our nation would need to account for the brutal mistreatment of African-Americans during chattel slavery, Jim Crow segregation and the enduring structural racism endemic to our society.

I would like to take this moment to personally thank the estimable John Conyers for his work on this legislation for the last thirty years.

With the rise and normalization of white supremacist expression during the Trump administration, the discussion of H.R. 40 and the concept of restorative justice have gained more urgency, garnering the attention of mainstream commentator, and illustrating the need for a national reckoning.

H.R. 40 is intended to create the framework for a national discussion on the enduring impact of slavery and its complex legacy to begin that necessary process of atonement.

The designation of this legislation as H.R. 40 is intended to memorialize the promise made by General William T. Sherman, in his 1865 Special Field Order No. 15, to redistribute 400,000 acres of formerly Confederate owned coastal land in South Carolina and Florida, subdivided into 40 acre plots.

In addition to the more well-known land redistribution, the Order also established autonomous governance for the region and provided for protection by military authorities of the settlements.

Though Southern sympathizer and former slaveholder President Andrew Johnson would later overturn the Order, this plan represented the first systematic form of Freedmen reparations.

Since its introduction, H.R. 40 has acted to spur some governmental acknowledgement of the sin of slavery, but most often the response has taken the form of an apology.

However, even the well intentioned commitments to examine the historical and modern day implications of slavery by the Clinton administration fell short of the mark and failed to inspire substantive public discourse.

For many, it was not until The Atlantic published Ta-Nehisi Coates' *The Case for Reparations* that the mainstream public began to reckon with, or even consider, the concept of reparations.

Though the Federal government has been slow to engage the issue of reparations, individuals, corporations and other public institutions have engaged the discussion out of both necessity and conscience.

In 1994, a group of California plaintiffs brought suit against the Federal government and by 2002, nine lawsuits were filed around the country by the Restitution Study Group.

Though litigation has yielded only mixed success in court, a serious foundation was laid for alternative forms of restitution.

For example, in 2005, J.P. Morgan & Company tried to make amends for its role in the slave trade with an apology and a \$5 million, five-year scholarship fund for Black undergraduates in Louisiana.

In 2008, the Episcopal Church apologized for perpetuating American slavery through its interpretation of the Bible and certain diocese have implemented restitution programs.

In 2003, Brown University created the Committee on Slavery and Justice to assess the University's role in slavery and determine a response.

Similarly, in 2016, Georgetown University apologized for its historical links to slavery and said it would give an admissions edge to descendants of slaves whose sale in the 18th century helped pay off the U.S. school's debts.

In 2017, my alma mater Yale University announced that it would rename Calhoun College—named for John C. Calhoun—would be changed to honor Grace Murray Hopper, a trailblazing computer scientist who also served as rear admiral in the United States Navy.

The University's president, Peter Salovey, indicated that removing Calhoun's name was consistent with its values because Calhoun had a legacy of a white supremacist and a national leader who passionately promoted slavery as a positive good.

And, in April of this year, students at Georgetown University voted in favor of paying reparations to the descendants of enslaved people who were sold by the university in order to satisfy its debts.

In 1838, in a practice likely far wider spread than is likely accounted for, Georgetown Jesuits sold 272 slaves who worked on plantations.

When the results of the Georgetown poll were announced, the numbers were overwhelming: 2/3 of students indicated that payments should be funded to descendants of these slaves and would be paid for by a fee that would apply to all undergraduate students.

While the vote was nonbinding, it nonetheless represents the first time the student body of a university has voted to implement a mandatory fee to account for reparations.

These are only a few examples of how private institution have begun reckoning with their past records.

I expect that a growing number of institutions will be forced to examine their histories of discrimination, if for no other reason than increasing public scrutiny will force their history to light.

Since my reintroduction of H.R. 40 at the beginning of this Congress; both the legislation and concept of reparations have become the focus of national debate.

For many, it is apparent that the success of the Obama administration has unleashed a backlash of racism and intolerance that is an echo of America's dark past which has yet to be exorcised from the national consciousness.

Commentators have turned to H.R. 40 as a response to formally begin the process of analyzing, confronting and atoning for these dark chapters of American history.

Even conservative voices, like that of New York Times columnist David Brooks, are starting to give the reparations cause the hearing it deserves, observing that "Reparations are a drastic policy and hard to execute, but the very act of talking and designing them heals a wound and opens a new story."

Similarly, a majority of the Democratic presidential contenders have turned to H.R. 40 as a tool for reconciliation, with 17 cosponsoring or claiming they would sign the bill into law if elected.

Though critics have argued that the idea of reparations is unworkable politically or financially, their focus on money misses the point of the H.R. 40 commission's mandate.

The goal of these historical investigations is to bring American society to a new reckoning with how our past affects the current conditions of African Americans and to make America a better place by helping the truly disadvantaged.

Consequently, the reparations movement does not focus on payments to individuals, but to remedies that can be created in as many forms necessary to equitably address the many kinds of injuries sustained from chattel slavery and its continuing vestiges.

To merely focus on finance is an empty gesture and betrays a lack of understanding of the depth of the unaddressed moral issues that continue to haunt this nation.

While it might be convenient to assume that we can address the current divisive racial and political climate in our nation through race neutral means, experience shows that we have not escaped our history.

Though the Civil Rights Movement challenged many of the most racist practices and structures that subjugated the African American community, it was not followed by a commitment to truth and reconciliation.

For that reason, the legacy of racial inequality has persisted, and left the nation vulnerable to a range of problems that continue to yield division, racial disparities and injustice.

Reparations are ultimately about respect and reconciliation—and the hope that one day, all Americans can walk together toward a more just future.

We owe it to those who were ripped from their homes those many years ago an ocean away; we owe it to the millions of Americans—yes they were Americans—who were born into bondage, knew a life of servitude, and died anonymous deaths, as prisoners of this system.

We owe it to the millions of descendants of these slaves, for they are the heirs to a society of inequities and indignities that naturally filled the vacuum after slavery was formally abolished 154 years ago.

Let us also do with the spirit of reconciliation and understanding that this bill represents.

Finally, if we truly want to build better, brighter future, we can't do it on a rotten foundation. Therefore, for the house that is America, we must repair the damage caused by the original crime that separates us. A house divided against itself cannot stand.

The H.R. 40 Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans must be created by executive order. Today we call on President Biden to right this historical wrong and take a monumental step towards reparative justice.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 59 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Today, O God, we lay before You our petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving. We request that You bestow upon us the joy of Your presence among us, that when we look upon the faces of those who labor in these Halls, known and unknown, elected or employed, we may see Your image.

We pray for the health and welfare of this illustrious body, that as the scenery changes and the actors move on, around, or off the stage, You will uphold each one. Guide them in the roles You have called them to fulfill and grant them wisdom to discern the way You would have them go.

Lord, may our prayers serve as an intercession for those who do not have enough courage or strength to speak their own needs, for those who haven't enough faith to trust what lies ahead, and for those who do not know how to receive the mercy You offer us.

Then accept our offerings of thanksgiving to You for the bounty You lay before us—the gift to labor, to serve, and to contribute our energies wherever You call us, but especially here in this, our Nation's Capital.

May our words be good and pleasing to You as we pray them in Your most holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CELEBRATING PASSAGE OF THE SPEAK OUT ACT

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of the Speak Out Act.

As the co-chair of the Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence, I have seen how perpetrators of workplace sexual assault and harassment hide behind nondisclosure agreements to sweep their heinous conduct under the rug.

Let's remember that the vast majority of assault and harassment in the workplace goes unreported, and most perpetrators are never held accountable. It takes tremendous courage for survivors to come forward.

I am so proud that under the leadership of Speaker NANCY PELOSI, this House overwhelmingly passed the Speak Out Act yesterday, and we have sent this commonsense, bipartisan bill to the President's desk.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize November as National Career Development Month.

As co-chair of the bipartisan House Career and Technical Education Caucus, I was proud to introduce the National Career Development Month resolution last week with my CTE Caucus co-chair and good friend, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN.

National Career Development Month raises awareness of future career opportunities and development programs for all individuals. A highly skilled workforce is a business's number one asset and provides a competitive edge.

National Career Development Month also is a time to recognize the professionals who guide learners to become leaders of tomorrow.

Throughout the month, schools and businesses will have the chance to showcase different career paths that align with various interests and skills. These opportunities will better prepare students as they begin to enter the workforce.

As we continue through National Career Development Month, I encourage employers, students, and workers of all ages to take advantage of career development, putting them in the driver's seat of their careers.

TURNING TRANSGENDER AWARENESS INTO ACTION

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Transgender Awareness Week.

Trans Americans made history this year by running and winning in more elections than ever before. Breakthrough representations in media have

led to historic numbers of transgender and nonbinary characters on screen. In many ways, transgender Americans are more visible than ever.

At the same time, the trans community has been forced to withstand severe attacks from laws that would strip fundamental rights to dehumanizing vitriol deployed by elected officials and public figures. These attacks treat trans people as threats to society rather than neighbors, parents, children, friends, and loved ones.

There are more than 2 million people in the United States that identify as transgender or nonbinary. Trans Americans exist in all walks of life all across the country. This transgender week, I call on my colleagues to turn awareness into action.

To the trans community, you have allies in Congress. Let it be known that there has been no greater friend of trans people in this country or LGBTQ people than Speaker NANCY PELOSI.

We will not cease the fight to protect and advocate for our transgender siblings, not just this week but all year long.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT JOHN GARDNER

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to recognize the 2022 Army Congressional Fellow, Master Sergeant John Gardner, for his service to the Second District of South Carolina.

His yearlong service with the office is ending, and John will be missed. Not only has he been an indispensable coordinator and contributor to legislative goals, including the National Defense Authorization Act, but also a valued team player.

Including a combat tour on the front line as an infantry medic in Iraq, John has held many leadership assignments throughout his 20-year decorated career in the Army, including most recently in the Defense Attache Office of the American Embassy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

John hails from Houston, Texas. He has a master's degree from Colorado State and holds two graduate degrees. His next assignment is in the Pentagon, where John will be a valued participant in peace through strength.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

Godspeed, Speaker NANCY PELOSI.

EXPANDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(Mr. AUCHINCLOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the urgent need

to tackle the affordable housing crisis. The cost of housing is the single biggest challenge facing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Last week, I hosted an affordable housing conference in Attleboro with my friend and colleague Juana Matias, the HUD regional administrator for New England. We spoke with housing officials and developers across the district about the programs and funding available for affordable housing development. I reiterated my commitment to policies from zoning reform to LIHTC expansion to increased production of affordable housing.

Expanding affordable housing is a multigovernment effort that needs support on the Federal, State, and local levels. As the next Congress approaches, we must recommit ourselves to making housing more affordable for working families.

HONORING CHRISTINA SCHAUER

(Mrs. HINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HINSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christina Schauer, a veteran and nurse from Dubuque, Iowa, whose courage and dedication to serving others are unmatched.

Christina served our country overseas as a combat medic in Iraq. Our veterans face immense challenges when returning home, and unfortunately, our women veterans are often afraid to speak up about their experiences. They may feel invisible or that their service wasn't worthy. As a result, they may be less likely to seek the care that they have earned.

Christina is working to right this wrong by sharing her own story. She has championed women veteran visibility, empowering her sisters in sacrifice to talk more about their service and seek the healthcare and the benefits they deserve.

So, Christina, thank you for your service and for your commitment to empower women veterans. You are an inspiration to all of us.

HONORING KAREN SUTTON

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend, Karen Sutton, who recently passed away after a long, hard fight with cancer.

Karen spent much of her life in Springfield and was a valued member of our community, always volunteering and attending events all the way up to a few weeks before she passed.

After a long and successful career in data processing, Karen retired from the Illinois Department of Health in 2002.

Karen spent much of her time in the bowling alley, playing in multiple leagues and eventually becoming the league secretary.

Karen also enjoyed traveling to national Mustang shows, where she won many awards. These shows, put on by the Mustang Club of America, allowed Karen to connect with the community of drivers from all over the Nation, whom she greatly valued. She was also praised for her hard work in helping the judging secretaries during these fun yet competitive events.

I am grateful to have known Karen and her husband, Carroll, for many years, and I am thankful for all of her work to make our community a better place to live.

Karen is survived by her husband, Carroll; daughter, Julie; and son, Brent. My condolences to the entire Sutton family during this difficult time.

Karen, may you rest in peace.

HONORING MISSISSIPPI FARM BUREAU ON ITS 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100-year anniversary of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation.

The Mississippi Farm Bureau is the largest agriculture organization in the State and represents the social and economic interests of farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

Its statewide grassroots structure allows it to be an effective organization, representing and promoting 17 commodities in Mississippi.

The organization is a valuable resource on issues of importance to our farm families, and it works with Federal and State lawmakers to advocate for these priorities.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Mississippi Farm Bureau on important agriculture issues in the future.

May God bless our farmers, and may God continue to bless the Mississippi Farm Bureau.

□ 1215

CALIFORNIA GOING DOWN IN FLAMES

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, as I watch my home State of California go down in flames, literally, as we watch how we are running out of electricity, we are running out of water, our store shelves are having less and less food varieties available, our farmers being pushed out of business, our farmworkers being pushed out of business, as we see all of these things happen with mandates coming down the pike, requiring more and more electricity has to be renewable, what is the answer in California?

Let's tear down some hydroelectric dams in my district and Mr. BENTZ' district; let's tear them down.

We are going to lose green power. We are doing it over the objections of the people who live there, who have objected by over 70 percent to removal of these dams, all for an unproven environmental benefit.

So enjoy even less electricity. Enjoy even less food grown in my district and Mr. BENTZ' district. Enjoy even more of the crisis that is facing us in rural California, rural America, and on our store shelves and in our electrical wires due to even more unfounded environmental rules being forced upon us to tear down perfectly good hydroelectric dams. Thanks one hell of a lot.

RECOGNIZING RETAIL SOLUTIONS GROUP

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Randy Whittington, Gary Foster, Angela Rogers, and Joey Haney of the Retail Solutions Group in Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

I was proud to join them recently at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their fourth, and largest, warehouse.

In the last few years, Retail Solutions Group has grown from fewer than eight employees to now over 200. This is a magnificent accomplishment.

Madam Speaker, North Carolina remains a hub for entrepreneurship and innovation, thanks to people such as Randy, Gary, Angela, and Joey.

Congratulations to Retail Solutions Group on this new and exciting chapter. I look forward to hearing more about the strides you will make in the days and months ahead.

AMERICA NEEDS A NEW COURSE

(Mr. MEUSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, as we here in the House and our country come near the close of 2022, the United States has gone through the worst year on our record for illegal border crossings.

Meanwhile, we have a Homeland Security Secretary who tells us regularly that the border is secure. Just this last month, over 230,000 illegals have crossed that we know of.

Along with this, gasoline prices are over \$4 a gallon again, and the cost of Thanksgiving for most families will be over 20 percent what it was last year.

This has been a troubling year. America needs a new course. This House needs a new course, a new direction, and new priorities that strengthen America and Americans.

SPEAKER PELOSI'S FUTURE PLANS

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, as we gather here, we stand on sacred ground, the Chamber of the United States House of Representatives, the heart of American democracy.

I will never forget the first time I saw the Capitol. It was on a cold January day, when I was 6 years old. My father, Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr., was about to be sworn in for his fifth term in Congress representing our beloved hometown of Baltimore.

I was riding in the car with my brothers. They were thrilled and jumping up and down and saying to me: "Nancy, look, there's the Capitol." And every time I would say: "I don't see any capitals. Is it a capital A, a capital B, or a capital C?"

Finally, I saw it, a stunning white building with a magnificent dome. I believed then, as I believe today, this is the most beautiful building in the world because of what it represents. The Capitol is a temple of our democracy, of our Constitution, of our highest ideals.

On that day, I stood with my father on this floor as he took the sacred oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

All of us who have served in this House have taken the hallowed oath of office. It is the oath that stitches us together in a long and storied heritage. Colleagues who served before us are all our colleagues: colleagues like Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Webster, Shirley Chisholm, Patsy Mink, and our beloved John Lewis.

Personally, it binds me as a colleague to my father, a proud New Deal Congressman and one of the earliest Italian Americans to serve in Congress.

This is an oath we are duty-bound to keep, and it links us with the highest aspirations of the ages.

In this room, our colleagues across history have abolished slavery; granted women the right to vote; established Social Security and Medicare; offered a hand to the weak, care to the sick, education to the young, and hope to the many.

Indeed, it is here, under the gaze of our patriarch George Washington in the people's House that we have done the people's work.

My colleagues, I stand before you as Speaker of the House, as a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a devout Catholic, a proud Democrat, and a patriotic American, a citizen of the greatest republic in the history of the world, which President Lincoln called the last, best hope of Earth.

Indeed, in the words attributed to another of our colleagues, the legendary Daniel Webster: "Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution of your country and the government established under it. . . ."

"Miracles do not cluster. That which has happened but once in 6,000 years cannot be expected to happen often."

Indeed, American democracy is majestic, but it is fragile. Many of us here

have witnessed its fragility firsthand; tragically, in this Chamber. So democracy must be forever defended from forces that wish it harm.

Last week, the American people spoke, and their voices were raised in defense of liberty, of the rule of law, and of democracy itself.

With these elections, the people stood in the breach and repelled the assault on democracy. They resoundingly rejected violence and insurrection and in doing so, "gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."

Now, we owe to the American people our very best to deliver on their faith, to forever reach for the more perfect union, the glorious horizon that our Founders promised.

The questions before us in this Congress and this moment are urgent; questions about the ideals that this House is charged by the Constitution to preserve and protect: "... establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Our posterity, our children. Babies born today will live into the next century, and our decisions will determine their future for generations to come.

While we will have our disagreements on policy, we must remain fully committed to our shared, fundamental mission: To hold strong to our most treasured democratic ideals, to cherish the spark of divinity in each and every one of us, and to always put our country first.

In their infinite wisdom, our Founders gave us their guidance: "e pluribus unum", "out of many, one."

They could not have imagined how large our country would become or how different we would be from one another, but they knew we had to be united as one.

We the people: One country, one destiny.

It has been with great pride that, in my 35 years in the House, I have seen this body grow more reflective of our great Nation, our beautiful Nation.

When I came to the Congress in 1987, there were 12 Democratic women. Now, there are over 90 and we want more.

The new members of our Democratic Caucus will be about 75 percent women, people of color, and LGBTQ. We have brought more voices to the decision-making table. When I entered leadership in 2002, there were eight of us. Today, there are 17 members of leadership.

When I first came to the floor at 6 years old, never would I have thought that some day I would go from home-maker to House Speaker. In fact, I never intended to run for public office.

Mommy and Daddy taught us through their example that public service is a noble calling and that we all have a responsibility to help others. In our family, my brother, Tommy, then became mayor of Baltimore also.

It has been my privilege to play a part in forging extraordinary progress

for the American people. I have enjoyed working with three Presidents, achieving historic investments in clean energy with President George Bush; transformative healthcare reform with President Barack Obama; and forging the future, from infrastructure to healthcare to climate action with President Joe Biden.

Now, we must move boldly into the future, grounded by the principles that have propelled us this far and open to fresh possibilities for the future.

Scripture teaches us that: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under Heaven."

My friends, no matter what title my colleagues have bestowed upon me—Speaker, Leader, Whip—there is no greater official honor for me than to stand on this floor and to speak for the people of San Francisco.

This I will continue to do as a Member of the House, speaking for the people of San Francisco, serving the great State of California, and defending our Constitution.

With great confidence in our caucus, I will not seek reelection to Democratic leadership in the next Congress.

For me, the hour has come for a new generation to lead the Democratic Caucus that I so deeply respect, and I am grateful that so many are ready and willing to shoulder this awesome responsibility.

Madam Speaker, standing here today, I am endlessly grateful for all of life's blessings.

For my Democratic colleagues, whose courage and commitment—with the support of your families—have made many of these accomplishments possible. That could not have been done without you.

For my dear husband, Paul, who has been my beloved partner in life and my pillar of support, thank you. We are all grateful for all of the prayers and well-wishes as he continues his recovery. Thank you so much.

For our darling children: Nancy Corrine, Christine, Jacqueline, Paul, and Alexandra; and our grandchildren: Alexandra and Madeleine; Liam, Sean and Ryan; Paul and Thomas; Bella and Octavio, they are the joys of our lives of whom we are so very, very proud, and they are a comfort to us at this time.

And for my brilliant, dedicated, and patriotic staff under the leadership of Terri McCullough, working together, the finest group of public servants the House has ever known, thank you all so much.

And, again, for those who have sent me here, for the people of San Francisco, for entrusting me with the high honor of being their voice in Congress.

In this continued work, I will strive to honor the call of the patron saint of our city, Saint Francis: "Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace."

In this House, we begin each day with a prayer and a pledge to the flag. And every day I am in awe of the majestic miracle that is American democracy.

As we participate in the hallmark of our Republic—the peaceful, orderly transition from one Congress to the next—let us consider the words of, again, President Lincoln, spoken during one of America's darkest hours.

He called upon us to come together, to "swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

That, again, is the task at hand.

A new day is dawning on the horizon, and I look forward and always forward to the unfolding story of our Nation; a story of light and love, of patriotism and progress, of many becoming one, and always an unfinished mission to make the dreams of today the reality of tomorrow.

Thank you all. May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless our veterans and the United States of America. Thank you all so much.

□ 1245

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

FEMA IMPROVEMENT, REFORM, AND EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3092) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to improve the provision of certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3092

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "FEMA Improvement, Reform, and Efficiency Act of 2022" or the "FIRE Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Agency;

(2) the term "Agency" means the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(3) the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(4) the term "emergency" means an emergency declared or determined to exist by the President under section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191);

(5) the terms "Indian tribal government", "local government", and "State" have the meanings given such terms in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122); and

(6) the term "major disaster" means a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170).

SEC. 3. REPORT ON RELOCATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit a report regarding the use of relocation assistance under sections 203, 404, and 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133, 5170c, 5172) for wildfire risk to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Any information on relocation projects that have been carried out due to fire risks or denied by the Agency, including the number and value of projects either carried out or denied.

(2) A discussion of the possible benefits or disadvantages of providing relocation assistance that may reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of loss due to wildfires.

(3) A discussion of how the Agency may optimize relocation assistance when entire States or geographic areas are considered subject to a fire risk.

(4) An analysis of whether other mitigation measures are more cost-effective than relocation assistance when the applicant is applying to move from a high-risk to a medium-risk or low-risk area with respect to wildfires.

(5) An analysis of the need for the Federal Government to produce wildfire maps that identify high-risk, moderate-risk, and low-risk wildfire zones.

(6) An analysis of whether other mitigation measures promote greater resilience to wildfires when compared to relocation or, if additional data is required in order to carry out such an analysis, a discussion of the additional data required.

(7) A discussion of the ability of States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments to demonstrate fire risk, and whether the level of this ability impacts the ability of States, local governments, or Indian tribal governments to access relocation assistance, including an assessment of existing fire mapping products and capabilities and recommendations on redressing any gaps in the ability of the Agency to assist States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments in demonstrating fire risk.

(8) An evaluation of—

(A) the scope of the data available to the Agency regarding historical wildfire losses;

(B) how such data is utilized in benefit-cost analysis determinations by the Agency;

(C) what additional data, if any, may be pertinent to such determinations; and

(D) what, if any, alternative methods may be relevant to the determination of cost effectiveness.

(9) A discussion of the extent to which the decision process for relocation assistance appropriately considers the change in future risks for wildfires due to a changing climate.

(10) An analysis of whether statutes and regulations regarding relocation assistance by the Agency present barriers for States, local governments, or Indian tribal governments trying to access funding to reduce wildfire risk.

(11) An analysis of—

(A) how, if at all, the Agency has modified policies and procedures to determine the eligibility of proposed relocation or mitigation projects with respect to wildfires;

(B) the cost effectiveness of such projects, in light of the increasing losses and obligations for wildfires in recent years; and

(C) the effectiveness of any modifications described in subparagraph (A).

(12) An analysis of how, if at all, recent changes in the availability of fire insurance has resulted in modifications of policy or procedure with respect to determining the cost efficacy of relocation assistance for wildfires.

(13) An analysis of how to define repetitive loss and repetitively damaged properties in the context of wildfires.

(14) Other related issues that the Administrator determines appropriate.

SEC. 4. RED FLAG WARNINGS AND PREDISASTER ACTIONS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in coordination with the National Weather Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall—

(1) conduct a study of, develop recommendations for, and initiate a process for the use of forecasts and data, including information that supports the Red Flag Warnings of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and similar weather alert and notification methods, to establish—

(A) plans and actions, consistent with law, that can be implemented prior to a wildfire event, including pre-impact disaster declarations and surge operations, that can limit the impact, duration, or severity of the fire; and

(B) mechanisms to increase interagency collaboration to expedite the delivery of disaster assistance; and

(2) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a comprehensive report regarding the study described in paragraph (1), including any recommendations of the Administrator, and the activities of the Administrator to carry out paragraph (1).

SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE FOR WILDFIRE DAMAGE.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress regarding—

(1) the application for assistance and consistency of assistance provided by the Agency in response to wildfires; and

(2) the kinds of damage that result from wildfires.

SEC. 6. GAO REPORT ON GAPS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that examines—

(1) gaps in the policies of the Agency related to wildfires, when compared to other hazards;

(2) disparities in regulations and guidance issued by the Administrator, including any oversight of the programs of the Agency, when addressing impacts of wildfires and other hazards;

(3) ways to shorten the period of time between the initiating of and the distribution of assistance, reimbursements, and grants;

(4) the effectiveness of the programs of the Agency in addressing wildfire hazards;

(5) ways to improve the ability of the Agency to assist States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against wildfire hazards;

(6) revising the application process for assistance relating to wildfires to more effec-

tively assess uninsured and underinsured losses and serious needs; and

(7) ways to improve the disaster assistance programs of agencies other than the Agency.

SEC. 7. CRISIS COUNSELING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 416 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5183) is amended—

(1) by striking “The President” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The President”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) TRAINING.—Each State, local agency, or private mental health organization providing professional counseling services described in subsection (a) shall ensure that, any individual providing professional counseling services to victims of a major disaster as authorized under subsection (a), including individuals working for nonprofit partners and recovery organizations, is appropriately trained to address impacts from major disasters in communities, and to individuals, with socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.”.

(b) RULE OF APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8. CASE MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 426 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189d) is amended—

(1) by striking “The President” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The President”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) TRAINING.—Each State, local government agency, or qualified private organization providing professional counseling services described in subsection (a) shall ensure that any individual providing case management services to victims of a major disaster as authorized under subsection (a), including individuals working for nonprofit partners and recovery organizations, is appropriately trained to address impacts from major disasters in communities, and to individuals, with socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.”.

(b) RULE OF APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 9. STUDY AND PLAN FOR DISASTER HOUSING ASSISTANCE.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

(1) conduct a study and develop a plan, consistent with law, under which the Agency will address providing housing assistance to survivors of major disasters or emergencies when presented with challenges such as—

(A) the presence of multiple families within a single household; and

(B) the near loss of a community, with the majority of homes destroyed in that community, including as a result of a wildfire, earthquake, or other event causing a major disaster; and

(2) make recommendations for legislative changes needed to address—

(A) the presence of multiple families within a single household; and

(B) the near loss of a community, with the majority of homes destroyed in that community, including as a result of a wildfire, earthquake, or other event causing a major disaster.

(b) COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.—The Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that provides a detailed discussion of the plans developed under subsection (a)(1) and the recommenda-

tions of the Administrator under subsection (a)(2).

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after submission of the report and recommendations under subsection (b), the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the findings and any recommendations made pursuant to this section.

SEC. 10. REIMBURSEMENT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the extent to which the Agency is using housing solutions proposed by a State or local government to reduce the time or cost required to implement housing solutions after a major disaster.

SEC. 11. PERMIT APPLICATIONS FOR TRIBAL UPGRADES TO EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 614(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196c(a)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “and Indian tribal governments” after “grants to States”; and

(2) by striking “State and local” and inserting “State, local, and Tribal”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 3092, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 3092, the FIRE Act. This legislation led by Representative LOFGREN in the House and Senator PADILLA in the Senate is designed to ensure FEMA's preparedness and response efforts address the unique nature of wildfires.

The bulk of FEMA's programs are designed to serve the victims of disasters caused by floods and hurricanes. However, climate change has made the threat of wildfire in communities grow each year. FEMA must serve all disaster survivors equally and adapt their programs to meet the challenges of wildfires.

This legislation encourages FEMA to predeploy assets during times of high risk of fire, evaluates public assistance eligibility post-fire, addresses equity of assistance for Tribal communities, and requires trainings for crisis counselors and caseworkers to ensure that they are equipped to meet the needs of economically disadvantaged survivors.

I support this effort and ask my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, S. 3092, the FIRE Act, makes changes to increase congressional oversight, garner further insight into FEMA's process for wildfire disasters, and enacts reforms related to disaster assistance.

Specifically, this bill directs FEMA to report to Congress on cost-effective housing solutions and challenges or inconsistencies in the application of assistance in the wake of wildfires.

The FIRE Act also takes the first steps to improve the use of forecasts and weather alerts, such as red flag warnings, within the disaster declaration process so FEMA can be better prepared earlier to provide wildfire assistance.

Lastly, this bill engages the GAO to investigate gaps in FEMA's current wildfire policies and recommend ways to streamline the distribution of assistance to our constituents and the State and local governments facing these fires head-on.

I am glad to be able to work with Senator PADILLA and my colleague, ZOE LOFGREN, on this as California has suffered so much, as has the West, with wildfire, including a million-acre fire in my own district last year and repeated wildfires that have affected so many and displaced so many.

I will add that working with FEMA has worked well, but we do need to continue to improve the process as FEMA has primarily, up until the advent of such large fires, dealt mostly with hurricanes and floods of that nature. We have all had to adapt until we can actually get better forest management and other tools that will help us prevent fire, and so, engaging FEMA, we appreciate them, and we want to work to have an even better process.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN), the author of this outstanding piece of legislation.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, it is no secret that our country is facing increasingly devastating disasters, including wildfires.

In my own home district, the SCU Lightning Complex fires of 2020 burned nearly 400,000 acres over 46 days across five counties, destroying more than 2,000 structures and damaging others. That was the fourth-largest wildfire recorded in California's modern history.

As chair of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, I hear about fires like this almost year-round from my colleagues, but it is not just a Western United States problem. Fire risk areas are growing exponentially to threaten new districts and new States every year.

And fires don't rage only in Democratic districts. This calamity knows no political divide.

As wildfires continue to worsen, our government has not acted with enough urgency. It is clear that Congress needs to pass legislation to better prevent and respond to wildfires.

Last month, I joined State and local officials to specifically discuss this policy and operational gaps, and the systems that we have in place obviously don't work as well as they should.

FEMA's current statutory authorities and operational practices limit our ability to prepare for and recover from wildfires. That is why all the California firefighters, chiefs, and leaders I met with support the FEMA Improvement, Reform, and Efficiency Act, or FIRE Act.

We know that wildfires present a unique and increasing danger, and we also know that policies written with hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes in mind don't always translate well.

The FIRE Act would direct FEMA to create a process that uses the red flag warnings we are all too familiar with to take predisaster measures and predeploy resources to take disaster-specific damages into account during recovery and the like.

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It is commonsense legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

I would like also to thank the co-leads on this bill—Congressmen THOMPSON, HUFFMAN, and PANETTA—for recognizing the importance of this legislation and for their hard work, as well as Senator PADILLA for his leadership in the Senate on this bill.

I thank Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader HOYER for their efforts to bring this to the floor. I would also like to recognize Ranking Member GRAVES and, of course, Congressman LAMALFA for working with us on reaching agreement on something that I think will be able to pass the Senate.

This is a good bill. It will improve our response, and I hope we get overwhelming support here today.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

The FIRE Act does increase oversight related to wildfire assistance and requires FEMA to report information to Congress so we can continue working—in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, on the floor, and across the aisle—to improve and streamline the disaster assistance process.

Again, we appreciate FEMA's efforts on all disasters around the country. We are just looking for a way to streamline and become even more efficient with that.

Madam Speaker, I urge support. I appreciate my colleagues—Ms. LOFGREN, my colleague from Louisiana, and Senator PADILLA—for the effort here today in building up to this.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, in closing, it is time that

communities impacted by wildfires receive the same quality of assistance as communities impacted by hurricanes and floods. S. 3092 addresses the threat of fire head-on and will make communities safer.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this good legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the House amendment to S. 3092, the Federal Emergency Management Agency Improvement, Reform and Efficiency Act of 2021.

This legislation addresses the federal government's approach to wildfires by setting a standard for implementing proactive plans of action for responding to wildfires, and by requiring reports on the effectiveness of FEMA programs.

These plans must include studies on providing housing assistance to survivors of major disasters to resolve challenges, such as the lack of proof of ownership, and to contract the National Academy of Sciences to study potential solutions to address the availability and affordability of insurance for disasters.

As the consequences of climate change become our new reality, it is our responsibility to be prepared in accordance with those changes.

Climate change exacerbates wildfires and vice versa, like a vicious cycle that can't be extinguished.

According to a report from the United Nations Environment Programme, the number of wildfires worldwide is projected to grow 50 percent by the year 2100.

The UN Environment Programme experts also reported that governments are not prepared for this shift.

This is no longer a matter of prevention, but rather a matter of preparation for what is ahead of us and for generations to come.

Across the nation, wildfires have disproportionately affected low-income families and people of color.

Disaster insurance for those in rural areas, low-income neighborhoods, and immigrant communities are often inaccessible, even though they are most at risk.

Native Americans are six times more vulnerable to the impacts of wildfires than their white counterparts due in part to the fact that they were forced to settle in fire-prone areas.

The FIRE Act would assess the need for the federal government to produce maps that identify wildfire zones.

This bill would also allow Indigenous tribal governments to apply for grants to better equip emergency operations centers.

Disaster prevention insurance has increasingly become inaccessible, especially to low-income families.

Disaster insurance is often beyond the reach of family budgets that are burdened with the skyrocketing prices of rent and food.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, tens of thousands of families were displaced after their homes were destroyed.

According to community advocates, about 50 percent of those households impacted by Harvey were low-income households and many of those damaged homes were in Black and Latino neighborhoods.

I worked tirelessly alongside the Houston Housing authority to reverse a FEMA decision

to not provide any fundings for the 428 Program, which would repair public low-income housing damaged by the Hurricane.

In cases of disaster, S. 3092 would require initiation of a process to determine the possible benefits or disadvantages of providing relocation assistance, addressing the growing housing issue for victims of disasters.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria that wreaked havoc on Puerto Rico, 92 percent of homes were damaged and 98 percent of those homes applied for FEMA's housing assistance.

According to the American Bar Association, 40 percent of those in need of housing assistance were denied due to a lack of ownership documentation stemming from generational inheritance of homes without government recordkeeping.

The FIRE Act would also develop a plan to address housing assistance for those who may lack ownership documentation in case of a disaster.

The effects of climate change are no longer a "what if," but our new reality.

Since these large-scale disasters will be inflicting damage with increasing frequency, we must be prepared for them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3092, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DISASTER SURVIVORS FAIRNESS ACT OF 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8416) to improve individual assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8416

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "Disaster Survivors Fairness Act of 2022".

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Information sharing for Federal agencies.
- Sec. 3. Universal application for individual assistance.
- Sec. 4. Repair and rebuilding.
- Sec. 5. Direct assistance.
- Sec. 6. State-managed housing pilot authority.
- Sec. 7. Management costs.
- Sec. 8. Individual assistance post-disaster housing study.
- Sec. 9. Funding for online guides for post-disaster assistance.
- Sec. 10. Individual assistance dashboard.
- Sec. 11. FEMA reports.
- Sec. 12. Sheltering of emergency response personnel.

Sec. 13. GAO report on preliminary damage assessments.

Sec. 14. Applicability.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—Except as otherwise provided, the terms used in this Act have the meanings given such terms in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

SEC. 2. INFORMATION SHARING FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall establish and maintain a web-based interagency electronic information sharing system, to be known as "DisasterAssistance.gov", to—

(A) facilitate the administration of the universal application for direct Federal disaster assistance established under section 3;

(B) carry out the purposes of disaster assistance programs swiftly, efficiently, equitably, and in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and the privacy and data protections provided under this section; and

(C) support the detection, prevention, and investigation of waste, fraud, abuse, inequitable allocation of resources, or discrimination in the administration of disaster assistance programs.

(2) **AUTHORITIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.**—In establishing and maintaining the electronic information sharing system under this subsection, the Administrator may collect and maintain disaster assistance information received from a disaster assistance agency, a block grant recipient, or an applicant for a disaster assistance program and share such information with any other disaster assistance agency or block grant recipient using such electronic information sharing system.

(b) **DATA SECURITY.**—The Administrator may facilitate the collection of disaster assistance information into the electronic information sharing system established under this section only after the following requirements have been met:

(1) The Administrator certifies that the electronic information sharing system substantially complies with the data security standards and best practices established pursuant to subchapter II of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, and any other applicable Federal information security policy.

(2) The Secretary of Homeland Security publishes a privacy impact assessment for the electronic information sharing system, in accordance with section 222 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 142).

(3) The Administrator, after consulting with disaster assistance agencies, publishes standard rules of behavior for disaster assistance agencies, block grant recipients, and personnel granted access to disaster assistance information to protect such information from improper disclosure.

(c) **COLLECTION AND SHARING OF ADDITIONAL RECORDS AND INFORMATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator may authorize the collection, maintenance, sharing, and use of additional disaster assistance information by publishing a notice on DisasterAssistance.gov that includes a detailed description of—

(A) the specific amendments to the collection, maintenance, and sharing of disaster assistance information authorized;

(B) why each such amendment to how disaster assistance information is collected, maintained, or shared is necessary to carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance program and consistent with the fair information practice principles; and

(C) the disaster assistance agencies and block grant recipients that will be granted access to the additional information to carry

out the purposes of any disaster assistance program.

(2) **NOTICE AND PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—The publication of a notice under paragraph (1) of a revision to the DisasterAssistance.gov system of records prior to any new collection, or uses, of Privacy Act categories of records, to carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance program with regard to a disaster declared by the President under section 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170; 5191), shall be deemed to satisfy the notice and publication requirements of section 552a(e)(4) of title 5, United States Code, for the entire period of performance for any assistance provided under a disaster assistance program.

(3) **WAIVER OF INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon the declaration of a major disaster or emergency pursuant to sections 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170; 5191), the President may direct the Administrator to waive the requirements of subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, with respect to voluntary collection of information for the duration of such major disaster or emergency.

(B) **TRANSPARENCY.**—Upon exercising the waiver authority under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall—

(i) promptly post on a website of the Federal Emergency Management Agency a brief justification for such waiver, the anticipated period of time such waiver will be in effect, and the disaster assistance offices within the Federal Emergency Management Agency to which such waiver shall apply; and

(ii) update the information relating to such waiver, as applicable.

(4) **GAO REVIEW OF WAIVER OF INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall issue a report describing the benefits and potential risks associated with authorizing the waiver of the information collection requirements described in paragraph (3).

(B) **CONTENTS.**—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall include an assessment of the extent to which a waiver described in paragraph (3) would—

(i) affect the paperwork burden for individuals, small businesses, State, local and tribal governments, and other persons;

(ii) affect the consistent application of Federal laws relating to—

- (I) privacy and confidentiality;
- (II) security of information; and
- (III) access to information; and

(iii) encourage or deter a State or other entity from participating in the voluntary collection of information for the duration of a major disaster or emergency.

(d) **USE BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator may permit a Federal agency other than a disaster assistance agency listed in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (f)(3) to use the electronic information sharing system established under this section for the purpose of facilitating disaster-related assistance if such agency enters into an agreement containing the terms described in paragraph (2).

(2) **AGENCY AGREEMENT.**—An agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall contain the following terms:

(A) The Federal agency shall—

(i) collect, share, maintain, and use disaster assistance information in compliance with this section and any policies of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and any information protection and use policies of such Federal agency; and

(ii) train any personnel granted access to disaster assistance information on the rules of behavior established by the Administrator under subsection (b)(3).

(B) In the event of any unauthorized disclosure of disaster assistance information, the Federal agency shall—

(i) notify the Administrator within 24 hours of discovering any such unauthorized disclosure;

(ii) cooperate fully with the Administrator in the investigation and remediation of any such disclosure;

(iii) cooperate fully in the prosecution of a person responsible for such disclosure; and

(iv) assume the responsibility for any compensation, civil liability, or other remediation measures, whether awarded by a judgment of a court or agreed as a compromise of any potential claims by or on behalf of an applicant, including by obtaining credit monitoring and remediation services, for an improper disclosure that is—

(I) caused, directly or indirectly, by the acts or omissions of officers, employees, and contractors of the agency; or

(II) from any electronic system of records that is created or maintained by the agency pursuant to section 552a(e) of title 5, United States Code.

(3) PUBLICATION OF AGENCY AGREEMENT.—The Administrator shall publish an agency agreement entered into under this subsection on the same website as the electronic information sharing system established under this section.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The sharing and use of disaster assistance information that is subject to the requirements of section 552a of title 5, United States Code, by disaster assistance agencies and block grant recipients shall not—

(1) be construed as a matching program for purposes of section 552a(a)(8) of such title; or

(2) be subject to the remaining computer matching provisions of section 552a of such title.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPLICANT.—The term “applicant” means—

(A) a person who applies for disaster assistance from a disaster assistance program; and

(B) a person on whose behalf a person described in subparagraph (A) has applied for disaster assistance.

(2) BLOCK GRANT RECIPIENT.—The term “block grant recipient” means a State, local government, or Indian Tribe that receives assistance through the disaster assistance program described in paragraph (5)(B)(i).

(3) DISASTER ASSISTANCE AGENCY.—The term “disaster assistance agency” means—

(A) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(B) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(C) the Small Business Administration;

(D) the Department of Agriculture;

(E) any other Federal agency that the Administrator permits to use the electronic information sharing system under subsection (d).

(4) DISASTER ASSISTANCE INFORMATION.—The term “disaster assistance information” includes any personal, demographic, biographical, geographical, financial information, or other information that a disaster assistance agency or block grant recipient is authorized to collect, maintain, share, or use to process an application for disaster assistance or otherwise carry out a disaster assistance program.

(5) DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The term “disaster assistance program” means—

(A) any program that provides assistance to individuals and households under title IV or title V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster

Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.); and

(B) any other assistance program carried out by a disaster assistance agency that provides assistance to an individual, household, or organization related to a major disaster or emergency declared under sections 401 or 501 of such Act, including—

(i) assistance for activities related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation that are authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

(ii) any loan that is authorized under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)); and

(iii) the distribution of food benefit allotments as authorized under section 412 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5179) and section 5(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)).

SEC. 3. UNIVERSAL APPLICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) UNIVERSAL APPLICATION.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall develop and establish a universal application for direct Federal disaster assistance for individuals in areas impacted by emergencies or disasters.

(b) CONSULTATION AND SUPPORT.—

(1) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall consult with the following:

(A) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(B) The Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(C) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(D) The Secretary of Agriculture.

(2) SUPPORT.—The entities described in paragraph (1) shall provide prompt support to the Administrator.

(c) SURVEY.—The application established under subsection (a) shall include a voluntary survey to collect the demographic data of an applicant.

(d) GAO ASSESSMENT ON IDENTITY THEFT AND DISASTER FRAUD IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct an assessment of improper and potentially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for individuals made to victims of major disasters declared in 2020 and 2021, including through identity theft; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that describes—

(A) the prevalence of improper and potentially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for individuals made to registrants who used invalid information to apply for disaster assistance, including through identity theft;

(B) the number of disaster victims whose claims for Federal disaster assistance for individuals were denied due to another individual filing a fraudulent application using their personal identifying information;

(C) the adequacy of existing fraud prevention protocols in place on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s online application for Federal disaster assistance for individuals; and

(D) recommendations for improving the identity verification protocols in place for Federal disaster assistance for individuals.

SEC. 4. REPAIR AND REBUILDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(b)(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “rendered uninhabitable” and inserting “damaged by a major disaster”; and

(2) by striking “uninhabitable, as a result of damage caused by a major disaster” and inserting “damaged by a major disaster”.

(b) HAZARD MITIGATION.—Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) HAZARD MITIGATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide financial assistance to individuals and households, whose primary residence, utilities, or residential infrastructure are damaged by a major disaster, for cost-effective hazard mitigation measures that reduce threats to life and property, or future damage to such residence, utilities, or infrastructure in future disasters.

“(B) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSISTANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided under this paragraph shall not be required to show that the assistance can be met through other means, except insurance proceeds.”; and

(2) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by inserting “, financial assistance for hazard mitigation under subsection (c)(5)(A),” after “subsection (c)(1)(A)(i)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) HAZARD MITIGATION.—The maximum financial assistance any individual or household may receive under subsection (c)(5) shall be equivalent to the amount set forth in paragraph (1) with respect to a single major disaster.”.

SEC. 5. DIRECT ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)) is further amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) REPAIRS.—

“(A) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRS.—The President may provide financial assistance for the repair of owner-occupied private residences, utilities, and residential infrastructure (such as a private access route) damaged by a major disaster, or with respect to individuals with disabilities, rendered inaccessible by a major disaster.

“(B) DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide direct assistance to individuals and households who are unable to make use of financial assistance under subparagraph (A) and when there is a lack of available resources, for—

“(I) the repair of owner-occupied private residences, utilities, and residential infrastructure (such as a private access route) damaged by a major disaster, or with respect to individuals with disabilities, rendered inaccessible by a disaster; and

“(II) eligible hazard mitigation measures that reduce the likelihood and future damage to such residences, utilities, and infrastructure.

“(ii) ELIGIBILITY.—A recipient of assistance under this subparagraph shall not be eligible for assistance under paragraph (1), unless otherwise determined by the Administrator.

“(C) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSISTANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided under this paragraph shall not be required to show that the assistance can be met through other means, except insurance proceeds.”.

(b) STATE- OR INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT-ADMINISTERED ASSISTANCE AND OTHER NEEDS ASSISTANCE.—Section 408(f) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking “subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), and (e)” each place it appears and inserting

“paragraphs (1)(B), (2)(B), and (4) of subsection (c) and subsection (e)”;

(2) in paragraph (3)(A) by striking “subsection (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), or (e)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(B), (2)(B), or (4) of subsection (c) or subsection (e)”.

SEC. 6. STATE-MANAGED HOUSING PILOT AUTHORITY.

Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(3)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (F);

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (G), (H), (I), and (J) as subparagraphs (F), (G), (H), and (I), respectively; and

(C) in subparagraph (I), as so redesignated—

(i) in clause (ii) by striking “Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the” and inserting “The”; and

(ii) in clause (iii) by striking—

(I) “2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph or” and

(II) “, whichever occurs sooner”; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—In the case of assistance provided under subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(2)(B), and (c)(4), the Federal share shall be not less than 75 percent.”.

SEC. 7. MANAGEMENT COSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 324(b)(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165b(b)(2)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE.—A grantee under section 408(f) may be reimbursed not more than 12 percent of the total award amount under each such section.

“(D) CRISIS COUNSELING ASSISTANCE, TRAINING, AND CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES.—A grantee and subgrantee, cumulatively, may be reimbursed not more than 15 percent of the total amount of the grant award under either section 416 or 426.”.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Section 408(f)(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

(1) by striking “(A) GRANT TO STATE,—” and all that follows through “subsection (g),” and inserting “Subject to subsection (g),” ; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B).

SEC. 8. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE POST-DISASTER HOUSING STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall—

(1) conduct a study and develop a plan under which the Agency will address the challenges associated with providing housing assistance to survivors of major disasters or emergencies pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), including circumstances in which—

(A) the presence of multiple families within a single household; and

(B) the near loss of a community, with the majority of homes destroyed in such community, with discrete assessments on flood, wildfire, and earthquake events; and

(2) make recommendations for legislative changes needed to address the challenges described in paragraph (1).

(b) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Administrator shall consult with other relevant Federal agencies and stakeholders.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Upon completion of the activities carried out under sub-

section (a), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing the study and recommendations required under subsection (a).

SEC. 9. FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR POST-DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) USE OF SERVICES OF OTHER AGENCIES.—Section 201(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) post-disaster assistance.”.

(b) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSISTANCE.—Section 201 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may enter into a cooperative agreement to provide funding to a State agency established under subsection (c) to establish and operate a website to provide information relating to post-disaster recovery funding and resources to a community or an individual impacted by a major disaster or emergency.

“(2) MANAGEMENT.—A website created under this subsection shall be—

“(A) managed by the State agency; and

“(B) suitable for the residents of the State of the State agency.

“(3) CONTENT.—The Administrator may enter into a cooperative agreement to establish a website under this subsection only to provide 1 or more of the following:

“(A) A list of Federal, State, and local sources of post-disaster recovery funding or assistance that may be available to a community after a major disaster or emergency.

“(B) A list of Federal, State, and local sources of post-disaster recovery funding or assistance that may be available to an individual impacted by a major disaster or emergency.

“(C) A technical guide that lists and explains the costs and benefits of alternatives available to a community to mitigate the impacts of a major disaster or emergency and prepare for sequential hazards such as flooding after a wildfire.

“(4) COOPERATION.—A State agency that enters into a cooperative agreement under this subsection shall cooperate with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in developing a website under this subsection.

“(5) UPDATES.—A State agency that receives funding to establish a website under this subsection shall update the website not less than once every 6 months.”.

SEC. 10. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.

Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 431. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after a declaration by the President that a major disaster exists under section 401, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall publish on a website of the Agency an interactive web tool displaying the following information with respect to such disaster:

“(1) The number of applications for assistance under section 408, including a descrip-

tion of the number of applications for assistance related to housing under such section and the number of applications for assistance to address other needs under section 408(e).

“(2) The number of applications for such assistance that are approved.

“(3) The number of applications for such assistance that are denied.

“(4) A ranked list of the reasons for the denial of such applications, including the number of applications for each reason for denial.

“(5) If available, the dollar amount of assistance provided pursuant to section 408 to applicants who are—

“(A) property owners with a household annual income—

“(i) above the national median household income; and

“(ii) below the national median household income; and

“(B) renters with a household annual income—

“(i) above the national median household income; and

“(ii) below the national median household income.

“(6) The estimated percentage of residential property that was destroyed as a result of the major disaster, if available.

“(b) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—The Administrator shall ensure that none of the information published under subsection (a) contains the personally identifiable information of an applicant.”.

SEC. 11. FEMA REPORTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report with respect to fiscal year 2016 through the most recent fiscal year ending before the date of enactment of this Act, and an annual report for any fiscal year beginning on or after the date of enactment of this Act, describing—

(1) the average amount of individual assistance and individual and household assistance provided under section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) to, and the rate of denial of individual assistance and individual and household assistance provided under such section for—

(A) all individuals;

(B) households;

(C) individuals and households with an annual income under 75 percent of the national median household income;

(D) individuals with an annual income over 125 percent of the national median household income; and

(E) individuals with an annual income between 75 percent and 125 percent of the national median household income; and

(2) an explanation for any factors causing an increase in the rate of denial of the assistance described in paragraph (1), if applicable.

SEC. 12. SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL.

Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For any major disaster for which the President has authorized emergency protective measures for an area within the jurisdiction of a State, tribal, or local government, the Administrator may reimburse the State, tribal, or local government for costs relating to sheltering emergency response personnel, including individuals

that are a part of the same predisaster household as such personnel, in exclusive-use congregate or non-congregate settings if the Governor of the State or chief executive of the tribal or local government determines that the damage or disruption to such area is of such a magnitude as to disrupt the provision of emergency protective measures within such area.

“(2) LIMITATION OF ASSISTANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may only reimburse a State, tribal, or local government for the costs of sheltering emergency response personnel under paragraph (1) for such a period of time as the Administrator determines reasonable based in the individual characteristics of and impacts to the affected area, including the extent of damage, the availability of alternative housing options, the availability of utilities, and disruptions to transportation infrastructure.

“(B) MAXIMUM DURATION OF REIMBURSEMENT.—The period of reimbursement under subparagraph (A) may not exceed the 6-month period beginning on the date on which the incident period ends.

“(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘emergency response personnel’ means—

“(A) employees or contracted employees providing law enforcement, fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical, emergency management, or emergency communications services; and

“(B) elected officials, except members of Congress, responsible for the overseeing or directing emergency response operations or recovery activities.”.

SEC. 13. GAO REPORT ON PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the practices, including the accuracy of such practices, that the Federal Emergency Management Agency uses when conducting preliminary damage assessments for the purposes of providing assistance under section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174).

(b) CONTENTS.—The Comptroller General shall include in the study conducted under subsection (a) the following:

(1) A comparison of the process and procedures used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to complete preliminary damage assessments to the process and procedures used by private insurance companies following a major disaster.

(2) A review of training provided to individuals conducting preliminary damage assessments.

(3) A comparison of damage estimates for homes owned by individuals above the national median income to homes owned by individuals at or below the national median income.

SEC. 14. APPLICABILITY.

The amendments made by sections 4, 5, 7, 9, and 12 shall only apply to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 8416, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8416. This legislation, introduced by Subcommittee Chair DINA TITUS, significantly improves disaster assistance programs for individuals and families.

It is undeniable that climate change has transformed the nature and severity of natural disasters in the United States. This has caused real and devastating impacts for those who find themselves living in the path of these disasters. Their lives will be upended by the loss of savings, homes, loved ones, and peace of mind.

Survivors turn to their government, especially to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, for support after what may have been the worst day of their lives. We know this by firsthand experience in my home State of Louisiana. In Congress, we must do everything in our power to ensure that Federal Government offers a hand of support that is fair, capable, and compassionate.

This package includes several key provisions to improve disaster assistance programs and survivor outcomes. First, this package will create universal application for direct Federal assistance and enable Federal agencies to share relevant disaster assistance information with each other.

The bureaucracy of the current application and evaluation process can leave survivors so overwhelmed that they give up hope on accessing the aid they are, in fact, entitled to. I have heard this from my own constituents. It is a travesty. It adds insult to injury. That is why I support this substantial step forward to cut red tape, streamline survivors' access to assistance, and reduce the time it takes for our communities to recover.

Second, this legislation gives FEMA new authorities that significantly expand the agency's ability to make disaster damaged homes more resilient. It is common sense to encourage mitigation activities in disaster-prone areas. Homes that were impacted once by a disaster are likely to be impacted again, and those hard-hit households may need extra help to rebuild stronger.

Third, several amendments were made to the Stafford Act which enables FEMA to support innovative post-disaster housing solutions. Natural disasters can exacerbate housing crises already existing in communities much like those which I represent. This bill seeks to help.

For example, it authorizes the agency to provide direct repair assistance to homeowners, which may reduce the amount of time survivors spend in temporary shelters or housing before returning home. It also authorizes FEMA

to reimburse States that implement their own innovative post-disaster housing solutions.

Lastly, this legislation includes a series of reports and studies that may identify existing challenges in the administration of current post-disaster housing programs and propose new solutions.

H.R. 8416 is designed to put survivors first and get them back on their feet after disasters faster. Disasters recognize no boundaries, and we must in turn strengthen and continually improve our disaster preparedness, response, and recovery systems from sea to shining sea.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support this effort, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,

Washington, DC, September 23, 2022.

Hon. PETER A. DEFazio,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DEFazio: I am writing with respect to H.R. 8416, the “Disaster Survivors Fairness Act of 2022”. Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Small Business regarding the matters in H.R. 8416 that fall within the Committee's jurisdiction.

As a result of your consultation with us on this measure and in order to expeditiously move the bill to the floor, I forego further consideration of H.R. 8416. The Committee on Small Business takes this action with our mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our jurisdiction. Further, I request your support for the appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from the Committee on Small Business during any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming our understanding regarding H.R. 8416 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Committee Report and the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of the measure. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
Chairwoman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington DC, September 26, 2022.

Hon. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
Chairwoman, Committee on Small Business,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN VELÁZQUEZ: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 8416, the Disaster Survivors Fairness Act of 2022. I appreciate your decision to waive formal consideration of the bill.

I agree that the Committee on Small Business has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I further agree that by forgoing formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Small Business is not waiving any jurisdiction over any relevant subject matter. Additionally, if requested I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee

on Small Business should a House-Senate conference be convened on this legislation. Finally, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report and the Congressional Record when the bill is considered on the floor.

Thank you again, and I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Committee on Small Business on this important issue.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFAZIO,
Chair.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, September 28, 2022.

Hon. PETER DEFAZIO,
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DEFAZIO: I am writing to acknowledge your letter dated September 28, 2022, regarding the waiver by the Committee on Financial Services of any Rule X jurisdiction claims over the matters contained in H.R. 8416, the "Disaster Survivors Fairness Act of 2022." The Committee on Financial Services confirms our mutual understanding that our Committee does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Financial Services further confirms our interest in appointment of outside conferees from the Committee should this bill or similar language be considered in a conference with the Senate.

We request that you ensure that this exchange of letters is included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during Floor consideration of the bill. We look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington DC, September 28, 2022.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman, Committee on Financial Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 8416, the Disaster Survivors Fairness Act of 2022. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that by foregoing formal consideration on H.R. 8416, the Committee on Financial Services does not waive any future jurisdictional claims to provisions in this or similar legislation, and that your Committee will be consulted and involved on any matters in your Committee's jurisdiction should this legislation move forward. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving provisions within this legislation on which the Committee on Financial Services has a valid jurisdictional claim.

I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation, and I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 8416.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFAZIO,
Chair.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 8416, Disaster Survivors Fairness Act, makes a series of changes to FEMA's Individuals and Households Programs.

Federal disaster assistance programs will be accessed through a new, universal application that cuts through the bureaucracy and red tape survivors face when seeking disaster assistance.

In my own district, we have had so much suffering from wildfire. The Camp fire destroyed the town of Paradise and displaced so many, as well as the Dixie fire last year. We just lost folks in a community called Klamath River, as well as Beckwourth and Happy Camp. I could name many others.

But, Madam Speaker, when a disaster hits you and when it hits a family, they need solutions, and they need them soon because they are going to live in a hotel or a motel. They are going to live with friends. They are going to live on someone's couch. They are going to have to leave the State. So when we can more immediately get them the assistance they need, it is more humane. It certainly allays a lot of suffering for folks who have already suffered too much already.

So with a streamlined application process we will update an existing website to view that application through [disasterAssistance.gov](https://disasterassistance.gov), an interagency information-sharing system between FEMA and other Federal agencies involved in disaster recovery. This will serve a dual purpose of increased coordination and reduce waste, fraud and abuse.

The Disaster Survivors Fairness Act also opens up and clarifies FEMA's authority related to home rebuilding and repairs allowing commonsense solutions that prioritize the survivors' needs in returning home and mitigating for future disasters, as my constituents are dealing with in the town of Greenville in northern California. We would like to expedite that process and not have red tape slow down their ability to rebuild and come back home.

So, Madam Speaker, I urge support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), who is the author of this legislation.

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Disaster Survivors Fairness Act which I introduced to address housing needs for victims in the aftermath of disasters.

In June, my subcommittee held an informal roundtable with stakeholders to identify post-disaster housing needs when it comes to emergency management and what the government can do to be helpful.

It is no surprise that climate change and the related severe weather events are changing the emergency management landscape. Today's disasters cause more damage, they have greater impacts on communities, they are more expensive, and they require more time to recover.

This legislation will cut red tape by providing States more flexibility to pursue the most appropriate post-disaster housing solutions for them, for their locations, for their geography, and for their demography.

It will deliver valuable resources to those in need by expanding eligibility for hazard mitigation assistance. It will provide oversight to ensure assistance is not being prioritized for wealthy homeowners and that everyone will benefit from the program. It will save taxpayer dollars by reducing the need for long-term sheltering that can cost FEMA upwards of \$300,000 per unit. We all remember the pictures of the trailers after Katrina.

So, Madam Speaker, I believe that this is commonsense legislation, it is broadly supported, and I ask my colleagues to vote for it. I thank the chair for yielding me time.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), who is the lead Republican sponsor of this bill.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I want to first thank my friend from Nevada for working with us on this legislation. This is important. I thank my colleague from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER) as well as Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN from Puerto Rico. These are all folks, Madam Speaker, who have been through the aftermath of disasters. Of course, the lead sponsor whom we are working on this legislation with is the chair of the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee.

Just to explain what happens here, in the aftermath of a disaster—and as the gentleman from California noted, this can be a forest fire, it could be a flood, it could be a hurricane, an earthquake, or other types of disasters—you have an alphabet soup of agencies that come in and offer assistance. It could be FEMA, it could be the Small Business Administration, it could be the Department of Agriculture, it could be the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or others.

Madam Speaker, the last thing in the world the victim of a disaster needs is to be revictimized by their own government bureaucracy. Whether your home was destroyed in a forest fire, it was blown away in a hurricane, or it was destroyed in a flood, you need help. You don't need bureaucracy. Yet, each agency has its own process.

This bill brings common sense to that. It relieves the stress of being a disaster victim, and it provides a universal application. You do it one time, the data is shared. You don't have to come in and fill out the same information over and over and over again.

I wish somebody could do this at a doctor's office. Just make a note.

Madam Speaker, this bill goes beyond there though. It also ensures that as taxpayers we are not coming in and

spending money over and over and over again on the same homes. It changes the threshold for assistance to come in and offer hazard mitigation assistance for these homes to make them more resilient and to address vulnerabilities. It ensures that if someone floods or there is a repetitive flood, we don't allow it to continue happening. We bring solutions to the table.

I am embarrassed to admit this, but in the district that I represent, there was a home that had flood insurance claims 42 times—42 times. As ridiculous as it is as a taxpayer to see that happen—can you imagine the homeowner having to go through this over and over and over again?

Thankfully, we have solved that problem in that case, but this bill prevents further similar problems from occurring.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Louisiana for working with us on section 12 of this legislation. This clarifies something that we did in the Disaster Response Reform Act of 2018 that ensures if you have a local entity like a sheriff's office or others that brings a housing solution to the table that is at least 50 percent or less the cost of what a similar solution would cost the Federal Government, they can get reimbursed for that.

Said another way, Madam Speaker, this saves the Federal Government 50 percent of the money or more of housing solutions whenever a local agency like a sheriff's office or others bring solutions to the table for their own victims. As my friend from Nevada has said, in some cases we have seen FEMA spending \$250,000 per trailer—\$250,000.

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We have seen local entities come in and bring solutions to the table for \$32,000, turning around and selling the trailers back, and recouping everything but \$7,000.

This is about taxpayers. It is about efficiency. It is about better solutions, more resilient communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this amendment.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, when a natural disaster strikes across the country, be it a hurricane, a wildfire, or an earthquake, American families are displaced. It is very important that we do our best to streamline whatever assistance has been deemed appropriate in the wake of that disaster.

So when we see a bill that streamlines the disaster recovery process for FEMA, that provides for a universal application for Federal disaster assistance for individuals residing in the areas hit by a natural disaster so that universal application can be used by multiple agencies, it is all beneficial.

When you see a bill that streamlines the ability to provide direct assistance to individuals and households, thereby eliminating some bureaucratic obstacles, and a bill that provides more flexibility to States, I strongly encourage the support of language like that in a legislative endeavor.

Whereas we may not agree with 100 percent of the language that is in a bill, it is our duty to measure the overall benefit for the citizens that we serve, and I rise in support.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, whether you have, as a victim, endured a wildfire, flood, hurricane, earthquake, or any other calamity, and the different forms of government are there to assist, in earnest, in good faith, let's get them an easier process to do so.

One-stop shopping is much preferable to folks that have suffered disaster and are displaced, their families spread out, and they are struggling. Via this legislation, I appreciate my colleague from Nevada pushing this forward and recognizing that.

We struggle in my own district with the Camp fire and the Dixie fire and so much devastation there. Two entire towns disappeared with Paradise and Greenville, and another small town, Canyon Dam. These folks are displaced, and they are looking for answers.

With the programmatic changes that are available in H.R. 8416, it will indeed streamline the application process, via disasters, through the several Federal agencies to help them navigate what we are calling today the alphabet soup of agencies to get a faster recovery. That is what we all want.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for this bill, and I appreciate the efforts my colleagues have been able to bring forward. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this legislation includes a series of reforms that will streamline Federal assistance and benefit survivors like they have never been benefited before. It is our duty to make disaster assistance fair and accessible to each and every survivor.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this good, bipartisan legislation, and I applaud my colleagues for joining us in working in unison to do what is best for the American people. I completely support this incredible legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I rise in support of H.R. 8416, the "Disasters of Survivors Fairness Act of 2022."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's mission is to help Americans prepare for, respond, and recover from disasters.

From day one, FEMA has been committed to protecting and serving Americans who have been impacted by disasters.

Unfortunately, though, the toll of disasters is much greater on most Americans than it is on those who are wealthier.

A 2020 FEMA National Advisory Committee report stated that disaster relief programs "provide an additional boost to wealthy homeowners and others with less need, while lower-income individuals and others sink further into poverty after disasters."

It is unfair that any survivor of disasters must suffer because of disparities in FEMA disaster response that have gone unchallenged for far too long.

For example, FEMA records show that low-income homeowners were denied 30 percent of the time compared to higher-income owners, who were denied 13 percent of the time, a 17-point difference.

Unfortunately, these disparities reveal the experience of African American and Hispanic Americans.

Threats posed by natural disasters intensify existing social and racial and ethnic inequities. After a natural disaster, people in disadvantaged communities have worse outcomes due to stresses or exposures to other risks associated with a disaster.

Low-income people and people of color are more likely to live in disaster-prone areas, live in lower-quality housing that is less safe when disasters occur, and have chronic illnesses that make them more vulnerable.

As climate change accelerates and intensifies, the natural disasters that it causes take a steeper toll each year.

Since climate change affects health in a variety of ways, disaster mitigation and response planning must be scoped in advance to ameliorate the consequences, hardships, and inequities.

To ensure that FEMA will lead equitable health interventions during disaster response, we must enable it to provide evidence-based policy, programming, and service delivery designed to protect health and promote health equity during disaster response and recovery.

Our nation is ill-prepared to deal with successive extreme weather events occurring nearly simultaneously, just as in 2017, when Hurricanes Harvey, Jose and Maria hit within days of each other, while wildfires burned in California.

One thing is certain after speaking with the people of Houston who, unfortunately, are all too familiar with these problems: We require a disaster recovery system that is designed to help the people who truly need it.

H.R. 8416 would:

- develop a universal application for federal disaster assistance;
- remove the requirement that households must be rendered uninhabitable;
- authorize the president to provide direct assistance to individuals and households;
- remove the requirement that a household must be rendered uninhabitable;
- allow FEMA to enter agreements with state agencies to provide funding for a website that will have information related to post disaster recovery funding and resources; and save taxpayer dollars by ensuring that FEMA resources are going to those who need the most help.

I have seen the dedication and hard work of FEMA professionals who provide relief to victims of disasters. But the unending string of disasters is stretching the fabric of emergency response systems across the nation. The pain and financial hardship that they cost the American people can be seen in headlines across the country.

We in Congress must do our part to enable FEMA to do more without diminishing the support of communities before, during, and after disasters.

No one was prepared for five days of sub-freezing temperatures, ice- and snow-covered roads, and a failed energy grid throughout the state of Texas.

Texas power providers, Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and Entergy Corporation, did not provide the needed weatherization of power generating and delivery equipment after being warned in 2011 after a cold snap that the system would fail if these steps were not taken.

The number of additional deaths uses mortality data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to compare the number of deaths from all causes that were reported in Texas during and after the storm with the number of fatalities that are normally reported during ordinary conditions.

That method is known as "excess fatalities" and has been employed during other disasters, like the COVID-19 pandemic, to estimate related death tolls.

In the aftermath of the storm millions of Texans struggled with the effects of the deadly winter storm, people of color and low-income communities who were disproportionately affected by blackouts and burst pipes could now face the hardest journey to recovery, experts said.

Hurricane Harvey hit a thousand square mile of Texas, just as in the past when Ike struck, but the telling sign of Blue Tarp Roofs are only in low-income, black, and brown communities' years after the storms have passed.

In the past the tools and resources available to FEMA to support disaster response and recovery have been limited to meals, water, trap.

Local, tribal, territorial, and state governments had to make request for aid to be provided.

For more substantial assistance, government contracting, and awards must be put into place, which can take months and in some cases years to get resources to victims.

This is too much time for survivors to have to wait for help.

The historic winter weather exacerbated pre-existing disparities like poor infrastructure and lack of resources in marginalized communities. Black and Latino communities who were disproportionately hit by COVID-19 now must struggle to recover from one of the worst weather events to ever hit Texas.

The nine-county Houston metro area impacted by Hurricane Harvey covers 9,444 square miles, an area larger than five states. Including New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

Hurricane Harvey dropped 21 trillion gallons of rainfall on Texas and Louisiana, most of it on the Houston Metroplex.

At its peak on September 1, 2017, one-third of Houston was underwater.

Hurricane Harvey is the largest housing disaster to strike the U.S. in our nation's history.

Hurricane Harvey damaged 203,000 homes, of which 12,700 were destroyed.

These are not simply numbers, these are families. Son and daughters, mothers and fathers, friends, mentors, and caretakers, all who are deserving of ample disaster response and recovery efforts.

There was no way to pre-prepare for Hurricanes Harvey, Katrina, Ian, or any of the other major disaster event.

What we can do is learn as much as possible and apply those lessons to future disaster response and recovery efforts.

When there is a catastrophic event, like Hurricane Harvey, there are important and valuable lessons that can help us to meet future challenges.

My constituents in Houston understand that our capacity to deal with hurricanes directly reflects our ability to respond to a terrorist attack in Texas or New York, an earthquake in California, or a nationwide pandemic.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that COVID-19 was a pandemic, which had by that date reached at least 114 countries, sickening over 100,000 people, and killing more than 4,000.

It is the duty of Congress to make sure that FEMA is prepared to meet any challenge while bringing equity to the response made during disasters.

The work of the FEMA Office of Disaster Recovery and the Office of Disaster Recovery are critical when disaster strikes and for this reason, they should be a permanent part of the agency.

This is one of the reasons, I introduced the FEMA Modernization Act (H.R. 3060) in the 116th Congress.

H.R. 3060:

makes permanent the FEMA Office of Disaster Response and the FEMA Office of Disaster Recovery;

creates an ombudsman for each office to assist survivors and victims';

establishes a new National Disaster Medical Triage Capacity and an Incident Medical Recovery Management Team to set best practices for Advanced Trauma Life Support capabilities, enable medical evaluations, and assess health impacts that result from disasters;

creates an office of ombudsman to work within the agency to create equity and access; provides for accurate reporting on deaths and missing persons; and

reports data on effective casework management for the provision of survivor benefits and services.

All survivors of disaster deserve a fair chance at obtaining disaster recovery and relief. We owe it to those who were ripped from their homes and left with nothing.

This bill provides the program support that is needed, since there is nowhere in the United States immune from disaster.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8416, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

VACATING DEMAND FOR THE YEAS AND NAYS ON S. 533, GUIDANCE CLARITY ACT OF 2021

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the ordering of the yeas and nays on the motion that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 533) to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, and for other purposes, be vacated, to the end that the motion be considered as withdrawn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND PASS CERTAIN BILLS

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, pursuant to section 2 of House Resolution 1464, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bills: H.R. 4275, H.R. 5502, H.R. 5721, H.R. 6290, H.R. 7277, H.R. 7299, and H.R. 8416.

The Clerk read the title of the bills.

The text of the bills are as follows:

ENSURING PHONE AND INTERNET ACCESS THROUGH LIFELINE AND AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM ACT OF 2022

H.R. 4275

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ensuring Phone and Internet Access Through Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. REPORTS ON ENROLLMENT IN CERTAIN PROGRAMS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON ENROLLMENT IN LIFELINE AND AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAMS THROUGH QUALIFYING PROGRAMS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 2 calendar years after the calendar year during which the first report is submitted under this subsection, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) enrollment in the Lifeline program by individuals participating in each of the Lifeline qualifying programs, broken out by each of the Lifeline qualifying programs, to the extent the Commission holds or has access to the necessary data relating to such enrollment; and

(2) enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program by individuals participating in each of the Affordable Connectivity Program qualifying programs, broken out by each of the Affordable Connectivity Program qualifying programs, to the extent the Commission holds or has access to the necessary data relating to such enrollment.

(b) GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ENROLLMENT IN LIFELINE AND AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAMS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress identifying outreach and publicity efforts to promote participation and enrollment in the Lifeline program and, separately, the Affordable Connectivity Program.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM QUALIFYING PROGRAM.—The term "Affordable

Connectivity Program qualifying program” means the programs set forth in paragraphs (1), (3), (4), and (6) of section 54.1800(i) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(3) **LIFELINE QUALIFYING PROGRAM.**—The term “Lifeline qualifying program” means the programs set forth in subsections (a)(2) and (b) of section 54.409 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

INTEGRITY, NOTIFICATION, AND FAIRNESS IN ONLINE RETAIL MARKETPLACES FOR CONSUMERS ACT

H.R. 5502

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Integrity, Notification, and Fairness in Online Retail Marketplaces for Consumers Act” or the “INFORM Consumers Act”.

SEC. 2. COLLECTION, VERIFICATION, AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION BY ONLINE MARKETPLACES TO INFORM CONSUMERS.

(a) **COLLECTION AND VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION.**—

(1) **COLLECTION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An online marketplace shall require any high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace’s platform to provide, not later than 10 days after qualifying as a high-volume third party seller on the platform, the following information to the online marketplace:

(i) **BANK ACCOUNT.**—

(I) **IN GENERAL.**—A bank account number, or, if such seller does not have a bank account, the name of the payee for payments issued by the online marketplace to such seller.

(II) **PROVISION OF INFORMATION.**—The bank account or payee information required under subclause (I) may be provided by the seller in the following ways:

(aa) To the online marketplace.

(bb) To a payment processor or other third party contracted by the online marketplace to maintain such information, provided that the online marketplace ensures that it can obtain such information within 3 business days from such payment processor or other third party.

(ii) **CONTACT INFORMATION.**—Contact information for such seller as follows:

(I) With respect to a high-volume third party seller that is an individual, the individual’s name.

(II) With respect to a high-volume third party seller that is not an individual, one of the following forms of contact information:

(aa) A copy of a valid government-issued identification for an individual acting on behalf of such seller that includes the individual’s name.

(bb) A copy of a valid government-issued record or tax document that includes the business name and physical address of such seller.

(iii) **TAX ID.**—A business tax identification number, or, if such seller does not have a business tax identification number, a taxpayer identification number.

(iv) **WORKING EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER.**—A current working email address and phone number for such seller.

(B) **NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE; ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.**—An online marketplace shall—

(i) periodically, but not less than annually, notify any high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace’s platform of the requirement to keep any information collected under subparagraph (A) current; and

(ii) require any high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace’s platform

to, not later than 10 days after receiving the notice under clause (i), electronically certify that—

(I) the seller has provided any changes to such information to the online marketplace, if any such changes have occurred; or

(II) there have been no changes to such seller’s information.

(C) **SUSPENSION.**—In the event that a high-volume third party seller does not provide the information or certification required under this paragraph, the online marketplace shall, after providing the seller with written or electronic notice and an opportunity to provide such information or certification not later than 10 days after the issuance of such notice, suspend any future sales activity of such seller until such seller provides such information or certification.

(2) **VERIFICATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An online marketplace shall—

(i) verify the information collected under paragraph (1)(A) not later than 10 days after such collection; and

(ii) verify any change to such information not later than 10 days after being notified of such change by a high-volume third party seller under paragraph (1)(B).

(B) **PRESUMPTION OF VERIFICATION.**—In the case of a high-volume third party seller that provides a copy of a valid government-issued tax document, any information contained in such document shall be presumed to be verified as of the date of issuance of such document.

(3) **DATA USE LIMITATION.**—Data collected solely to comply with the requirements of this section may not be used for any other purpose unless required by law.

(4) **DATA SECURITY REQUIREMENT.**—An online marketplace shall implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices, including administrative, physical, and technical safeguards, appropriate to the nature of the data and the purposes for which the data will be used, to protect the data collected to comply with the requirements of this section from unauthorized use, disclosure, access, destruction, or modification.

(b) **DISCLOSURE REQUIRED.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An online marketplace shall—

(i) require any high-volume third party seller with an aggregate total of \$20,000 or more in annual gross revenues on such online marketplace, and that uses such online marketplace’s platform, to provide the information described in subparagraph (B) to the online marketplace; and

(ii) disclose the information described in subparagraph (B) to consumers in a clear and conspicuous manner—

(I) on the product listing page (including via hyperlink); or

(II) in the order confirmation message or other document or communication made to the consumer after the purchase is finalized and in the consumer’s account transaction history.

(B) **INFORMATION DESCRIBED.**—The information described in this subparagraph is the following:

(i) Subject to paragraph (2), the identity of the high-volume third party seller, including—

(I) the full name of the seller, which may include the seller name or seller’s company name, or the name by which the seller or company operates on the online marketplace;

(II) the physical address of the seller; and

(III) contact information for the seller, to allow for the direct, unhindered communication with high-volume third party sellers by users of the online marketplace, including—

(aa) a current working phone number;

(bb) a current working email address; or

(cc) other means of direct electronic messaging (which may be provided to such seller by the online marketplace), provided that the requirements of this item shall not prevent an online marketplace from monitoring communications between high-volume third party sellers and users of the online marketplace for fraud, abuse, or spam.

(ii) Whether the high-volume third party seller used a different seller to supply the consumer product to the consumer upon purchase, and, upon the request of an authenticated purchaser, the information described in clause (i) relating to any such seller that supplied the consumer product to the purchaser, if such seller is different than the high-volume third party seller listed on the product listing prior to purchase.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), upon the request of a high-volume third party seller, an online marketplace may provide for partial disclosure of the identity information required under paragraph (1)(B)(i) in the following situations:

(i) If such seller certifies to the online marketplace that the seller does not have a business address and only has a residential street address, or has a combined business and residential address, the online marketplace may—

(I) disclose only the country and, if applicable, the State in which such seller resides; and

(II) inform consumers that there is no business address available for the seller and that consumer inquiries should be submitted to the seller by phone, email, or other means of electronic messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace.

(ii) If such seller certifies to the online marketplace that the seller is a business that has a physical address for product returns, the online marketplace may disclose the seller’s physical address for product returns.

(iii) If such seller certifies to the online marketplace that the seller does not have a phone number other than a personal phone number, the online marketplace shall inform consumers that there is no phone number available for the seller and that consumer inquiries should be submitted to the seller’s email address or other means of electronic messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace.

(B) **LIMITATION ON EXCEPTION.**—If an online marketplace becomes aware that a high-volume third party seller has made a false representation to the online marketplace in order to justify the provision of a partial disclosure under subparagraph (A) or that a high-volume third party seller who has requested and received a provision for a partial disclosure under subparagraph (A) has not provided responsive answers within a reasonable time frame to consumer inquiries submitted to the seller by phone, email, or other means of electronic messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace, the online marketplace shall, after providing the seller with written or electronic notice and an opportunity to respond not later than 10 days after the issuance of such notice, suspend any future sales activity of such seller unless such seller consents to the disclosure of the identity information required under paragraph (1)(B)(i).

(3) **REPORTING MECHANISM.**—An online marketplace shall disclose to consumers in a clear and conspicuous manner on the product listing of any high-volume third party seller a reporting mechanism that allows for electronic and telephonic reporting of suspicious marketplace activity to the online marketplace.

(4) COMPLIANCE.—If a high-volume third party seller does not comply with the requirements to provide and disclose information under this subsection, the online marketplace shall, after providing the seller with written or electronic notice and an opportunity to provide or disclose such information not later than 10 days after the issuance of such notice, suspend any future sales activity of such seller until the seller complies with such requirements.

(C) ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(1) UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of subsection (a) or (b) by an online marketplace shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall enforce subsections (a) and (b) in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person that violates subsection (a) or (b) shall be subject to the penalties, and entitled to the privileges and immunities, provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(3) REGULATIONS.—The Commission may promulgate regulations under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to the collection, verification, or disclosure of information under this section, provided that such regulations are limited to what is necessary to collect, verify, and disclose such information.

(4) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

(d) ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that any online marketplace has violated or is violating this section or a regulation promulgated under this section that affects one or more residents of that State, the attorney general of the State may bring a civil action in any appropriate district court of the United States, to—

(A) enjoin further such violation by the defendant;

(B) enforce compliance with this section or such regulation;

(C) obtain civil penalties in the amount provided for under subsection (c);

(D) obtain other remedies permitted under State law; and

(E) obtain damages, restitution, or other compensation on behalf of residents of the State.

(2) NOTICE.—The attorney general of a State shall provide prior written notice of any action under paragraph (1) to the Commission and provide the Commission with a copy of the complaint in the action, except in any case in which such prior notice is not feasible, in which case the attorney general shall serve such notice immediately upon instituting such action.

(3) INTERVENTION BY THE COMMISSION.—Upon receiving notice under paragraph (2), the Commission shall have the right—

(A) to intervene in the action;

(B) upon so intervening, to be heard on all matters arising therein; and

(C) to file petitions for appeal.

(4) LIMITATION ON STATE ACTION WHILE FEDERAL ACTION IS PENDING.—If the Commission has instituted a civil action for violation of

this section or a regulation promulgated under this section, no State attorney general, or official or agency of a State, may bring a separate action under paragraph (1) during the pendency of that action against any defendant named in the complaint of the Commission for any violation of this section or a regulation promulgated under this section that is alleged in the complaint. A State attorney general, or official or agency of a State, may join a civil action for a violation of this section or regulation promulgated under this section filed by the Commission.

(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of bringing a civil action under paragraph (1), nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the chief law enforcement officer, or official or agency of a State, from exercising the powers conferred on such chief law enforcement officer, or official or agency of a State, by the laws of the State to conduct investigations, administer oaths or affirmations, or compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

(6) ACTIONS BY OTHER STATE OFFICIALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to civil actions brought by attorneys general under paragraph (1), any other officer of a State who is authorized by the State to do so, except for any private person on behalf of the State attorney general, may bring a civil action under paragraph (1), subject to the same requirements and limitations that apply under this subsection to civil actions brought by attorneys general.

(B) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit an authorized official of a State from initiating or continuing any proceeding in a court of the State for a violation of any civil or criminal law of the State.

(e) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this section, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this section and the application of such provision to other persons not similarly situated or to other circumstances shall not be affected by the invalidation.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) CONSUMER PRODUCT.—The term “consumer product” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Magnuson-Moss Warranty—Federal Trade Commission Improvement Act (15 U.S.C. 2301) and section 700.1 of title 16, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) HIGH-VOLUME THIRD PARTY SELLER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “high-volume third party seller” means a participant on an online marketplace’s platform who is a third party seller and, in any continuous 12-month period during the previous 24 months, has entered into 200 or more discrete sales or transactions of new or unused consumer products and an aggregate total of \$5,000 or more in gross revenues.

(B) CLARIFICATION.—For purposes of calculating the number of discrete sales or transactions or the aggregate gross revenues under subparagraph (A), an online marketplace shall only be required to count sales or transactions made through the online marketplace and for which payment was processed by the online marketplace, either directly or through its payment processor.

(4) ONLINE MARKETPLACE.—The term “online marketplace” means any person or entity that operates a consumer-directed electronically based or accessed platform that—

(A) includes features that allow for, facilitate, or enable third party sellers to engage in the sale, purchase, payment, storage, shipping, or delivery of a consumer product in the United States;

(B) is used by one or more third party sellers for such purposes; and

(C) has a contractual or similar relationship with consumers governing their use of the platform to purchase consumer products.

(5) SELLER.—The term “seller” means a person who sells, offers to sell, or contracts to sell a consumer product through an online marketplace’s platform.

(6) THIRD PARTY SELLER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “third party seller” means any seller, independent of an online marketplace, who sells, offers to sell, or contracts to sell a consumer product in the United States through such online marketplace’s platform.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “third party seller” does not include, with respect to an online marketplace—

(i) a seller who operates the online marketplace’s platform; or

(ii) a business entity that has—

(I) made available to the general public the entity’s name, business address, and working contact information;

(II) an ongoing contractual relationship with the online marketplace to provide the online marketplace with the manufacture, distribution, wholesaling, or fulfillment of shipments of consumer products; and

(III) provided to the online marketplace identifying information, as described in subsection (a), that has been verified in accordance with that subsection.

(7) VERIFY.—The term “verify” means to confirm information provided to an online marketplace pursuant to this section, which may include the use of one or more methods that enable the online marketplace to reliably determine that any information and documents provided are valid, corresponding to the seller or an individual acting on the seller’s behalf, not misappropriated, and not falsified.

(g) RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAWS.—No State or political subdivision of a State, or territory of the United States, may establish or continue in effect any law, regulation, rule, requirement, or standard that conflicts with the requirements of this section.

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

VA INFRASTRUCTURE POWERS EXCEPTIONAL
RESEARCH ACT OF 2021

H.R. 5721

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act of 2021” or the “VIPER Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. INAPPLICABILITY OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 120. Inapplicability of Paperwork Reduction Act

“Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction Act’) shall not apply to research activities of the Department, including activities under subchapter V of chapter 73.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“120. Inapplicability of Paperwork Reduction Act.”

SEC. 3. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

“SUBCHAPTER V—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

“§ 7381. Office of Research and Development

“(a) OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—There is in the Veterans Health Administration an Office of Research and Development (in this section referred to as the ‘Office’).

“(b) PURPOSES.—The function of the Office is to serve veterans through a full spectrum of research (including pre-clinical, clinical, and health systems science), technology transfer, and application.

“(c) CHIEF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.—The head of the Office is the Chief Research and Development Officer.

“(d) ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL.—The Office shall be organized in such manner, and its personnel shall perform such duties and have such titles, as the Secretary may prescribe.

“§ 7382. Research personnel

“(a) WAIVER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL ACT MOBILITY PROGRAM LIMITS.—The Secretary may waive the limit on the period and number of assignments required under section 3372(a) of title 5 with respect to an individual who performs research for the Department under the mobility program under subchapter VI of chapter 33 of such title (commonly referred to as the ‘Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program’).

“(b) OUTSIDE EARNED INCOME FOR RESEARCH FOR THE DEPARTMENT.—(1) Compensation from a nonprofit corporation established under subchapter IV of this chapter, or a university affiliated with the Department, may be paid, without regard to section 209 of title 18, to an employee described in paragraph (2), for research conducted pursuant to section 7303 of this title if—

“(A) the research has been approved in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Under Secretary for Health;

“(B) the employee conducts research under the supervision of personnel of the Department; and

“(C) the Secretary agreed to the terms of such compensation in writing.

“(2) An employee described in this subsection is an employee who has an appointment within the Department, whether with or without compensation, and without regard to the source of such compensation.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER V—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

“7381. Office of Research and Development.

“7382. Research personnel.”.

SEC. 4. EXPANSION OF HIRING AUTHORITIES FOR CERTAIN CLASSES OF RESEARCH OCCUPATIONS.

Section 7401(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “statisticians, economists, informaticists, data scientists, and” after “blind rehabilitation outpatient specialists,”.

MANUFACTURING.GOV ACT
H.R. 6290

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Manufacturing.gov Act”.

SEC. 2. MANUFACTURING.GOV HUB.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Com-

merce, shall modify the manufacturing.gov website by establishing a section of the website to be known as the “manufacturing.gov hub”.

(c) FUNCTIONS.—The manufacturing.gov hub established under subsection (b) shall—

(1) serve as the primary hub for information relating to every Federal manufacturing program, including the programs identified in the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled “U.S. Manufacturing” (GAO 17-240), published on March 28, 2017;

(2) provide the contact information of relevant program offices carrying out the Federal manufacturing programs described in paragraph (1);

(3) provide an avenue for public input and feedback relating to—

(A) the functionality of the website of the Department of Commerce;

(B) the Federal manufacturing programs described in paragraph (1); and

(C) any other manufacturing-related challenges experienced by manufacturers in the United States;

(4) establish web pages within the hub that shall focus on—

(A) technology and research and development;

(B) trade;

(C) workforce development and training;

(D) industrial commons and supply chains; and

(E) small and medium manufacturers; and

(5) use machine learning to—

(A) identify frequently asked questions; and

(B) disseminate to the public answers to the questions identified under subparagraph (A).

(d) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this section.

IMPROVING OVERSIGHT OF VETERANS
COMMUNITY CARE PROVIDERS ACT OF 2022
H.R. 7277

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Improving Oversight of Veterans Community Care Providers Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS THAT ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN VETERANS COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM.

(a) PLAN.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Beginning not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, acting through the Under Secretary for Health, shall carry out a plan to improve the methods by which the Secretary identifies health care providers that are not eligible to participate in the Veterans Community Care Program.

(2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The plan under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Modifying the standard operating procedures of the Office of Community Care of the Veterans Health Administration regarding the exclusion of health care providers from participating in the Veterans Community Care Program to require the automated continuous matching of health care providers in the Provider Profile Management System of the Veterans Health Administration, or such successor system, with covered data systems using multiple unique identifiers, including taxpayer identification number, national provider identifier, Social Security number, and date of birth.

(B) A fraud risk analysis conducted by the Office of Community Care regarding the exclusion of health care providers from participating in the Veterans Community Care Program that includes—

(i) an assessment of the likelihood and impact of inherent fraud risks relating to the self-certification of State licenses and addresses provided by health care providers;

(ii) a determination of the fraud risk tolerance; and

(iii) an examination of the suitability of existing fraud controls.

(C) Any other matters the Under Secretary determines will improve the oversight of health care providers participating in the Veterans Community Care Program.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall certify to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the Secretary has implemented the plan under subsection (a).

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report that—

(A) describes the progress the Under Secretary has made in carrying out the plan under subsection (a); and

(B) includes recommendations for legislative action to further improve the methods by which the Secretary identifies health care providers that are not eligible to participate in the Veterans Community Care Program.

(2) UPDATE.—Not later than two years after the date on which the Secretary submits the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate an update to the report.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “covered data systems” means the following:

(A) The List of Excluded Individuals/Entities of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(B) The System for Award Management Exclusions list described in part 9 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, and part 180 of title 2 of such Code, or successor regulations.

(C) The monthly deactivation file of the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

(D) The National Practitioner Data Bank established pursuant to the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11101 et seq.).

(2) The term “Veterans Community Care Program” means the program established under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code.

STRENGTHENING VA CYBERSECURITY ACT OF 2022
H.R. 7299

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening VA Cybersecurity Act of 2022” or the “SVAC Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center to provide to the Secretary an independent cybersecurity assessment of—

(A) five high-impact information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(B) the effectiveness of the information security program and information security management system of the Department.

(2) DETAILED ANALYSIS.—The independent cybersecurity assessment provided under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed analysis of the ability of the Department—

(A) to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the information, information systems, and devices of the Department; and

(B) to protect against—

(i) advanced persistent cybersecurity threats;

(ii) ransomware;

(iii) denial of service attacks;

(iv) insider threats;

(v) threats from foreign actors, including state sponsored criminals and other foreign based criminals;

(vi) phishing;

(vii) credential theft;

(viii) cybersecurity attacks that target the supply chain of the Department;

(ix) threats due to remote access and telework activity; and

(x) other cyber threats.

(3) TYPES OF SYSTEMS.—The independent cybersecurity assessment provided under paragraph (1) shall cover on-premises, remote, cloud-based, and mobile information systems and devices used by, or in support of, Department activities.

(4) SHADOW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The independent cybersecurity assessment provided under paragraph (1) shall include an evaluation of the use of information technology systems, devices, and services by employees and contractors of the Department who do so without the heads of the elements of the Department that are responsible for information technology at the Department knowing or approving of such use.

(5) METHODOLOGY.—In conducting the cybersecurity assessment to be provided under paragraph (1), the federally funded research and development center shall take into account industry best practices and the current state-of-the-art in cybersecurity evaluation and review.

(b) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which an independent assessment is provided to the Secretary by a federally funded research and development center pursuant to an agreement entered into under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a plan to address the findings of the federally funded research and development center set forth in such assessment.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The plan submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Improvements to the security controls of the information systems of the Department assessed under subsection (a) to—

(i) achieve the goals specified in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of such subsection; and

(ii) protect against the threats specified in subparagraph (B) of such paragraph.

(B) Improvements to the information security program and information security management system of the Department to achieve such goals and protect against such threats.

(C) A cost estimate for implementing the plan.

(D) A timeline for implementing the plan.

(E) Such other elements as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES EVALUATION AND REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the submission of the plan under subsection (b)(1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) commence an evaluation and review of—

(A) the independent cybersecurity assessment provided under subsection (a); and

(B) the response of the Department to such assessment; and

(2) provide to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a briefing on the results of the evaluation and review, including any recommendations made to the Secretary regarding the matters covered by the briefing.

DISASTER SURVIVORS FAIRNESS ACT OF 2022

H.R. 8416

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Disaster Survivors Fairness Act of 2022”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Information sharing for Federal agencies.

Sec. 3. Universal application for individual assistance.

Sec. 4. Repair and rebuilding.

Sec. 5. Direct assistance.

Sec. 6. State-managed housing pilot authority.

Sec. 7. Management costs.

Sec. 8. Individual assistance post-disaster housing study.

Sec. 9. Funding for online guides for post-disaster assistance.

Sec. 10. Individual assistance dashboard.

Sec. 11. FEMA reports.

Sec. 12. Sheltering of emergency response personnel.

Sec. 13. GAO report on preliminary damage assessments.

Sec. 14. Applicability.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—Except as otherwise provided, the terms used in this Act have the meanings given such terms in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

SEC. 2. INFORMATION SHARING FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall establish and maintain a web-based interagency electronic information sharing system, to be known as “DisasterAssistance.gov”, to—

(A) facilitate the administration of the universal application for direct Federal disaster assistance established under section 3;

(B) carry out the purposes of disaster assistance programs swiftly, efficiently, equitably, and in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and the privacy and data protections provided under this section; and

(C) support the detection, prevention, and investigation of waste, fraud, abuse, inequitable allocation of resources, or discrimination in the administration of disaster assistance programs.

(2) AUTHORITIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—In establishing and maintaining the electronic information sharing system under this subsection, the Administrator may collect and maintain disaster assistance information received from a disaster assistance agency, a block grant recipient, or an applicant for a disaster assistance program and share such information with any other disaster assistance agency or block grant recipient using such electronic information sharing system.

(b) DATA SECURITY.—The Administrator may facilitate the collection of disaster assistance information into the electronic information sharing system established under this section only after the following requirements have been met:

(1) The Administrator certifies that the electronic information sharing system substantially complies with the data security standards and best practices established pursuant to subchapter II of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, and any other applicable Federal information security policy.

(2) The Secretary of Homeland Security publishes a privacy impact assessment for the electronic information sharing system, in accordance with section 222 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 142).

(3) The Administrator, after consulting with disaster assistance agencies, publishes standard rules of behavior for disaster assistance agencies, block grant recipients, and personnel granted access to disaster assistance information to protect such information from improper disclosure.

(c) COLLECTION AND SHARING OF ADDITIONAL RECORDS AND INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may authorize the collection, maintenance, sharing, and use of additional disaster assistance information by publishing a notice on DisasterAssistance.gov that includes a detailed description of—

(A) the specific amendments to the collection, maintenance, and sharing of disaster assistance information authorized;

(B) why each such amendment to how disaster assistance information is collected, maintained, or shared is necessary to carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance program and consistent with the fair information practice principles; and

(C) the disaster assistance agencies and block grant recipients that will be granted access to the additional information to carry out the purposes of any disaster assistance program.

(2) NOTICE AND PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—The publication of a notice under paragraph (1) of a revision to the DisasterAssistance.gov system of records prior to any new collection, or uses, of Privacy Act categories of records, to carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance program with regard to a disaster declared by the President under section 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170; 5191), shall be deemed to satisfy the notice and publication requirements of section 552a(e)(4) of title 5, United States Code, for the entire period of performance for any assistance provided under a disaster assistance program.

(3) WAIVER OF INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon the declaration of a major disaster or emergency pursuant to sections 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170; 5191), the President may direct the Administrator to waive the requirements of subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, with respect to voluntary collection of information for the duration of such major disaster or emergency.

(B) TRANSPARENCY.—Upon exercising the waiver authority under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall—

(i) promptly post on a website of the Federal Emergency Management Agency a brief justification for such waiver, the anticipated period of time such waiver will be in effect, and the disaster assistance offices within the Federal Emergency Management Agency to which such waiver shall apply; and

(ii) update the information relating to such waiver, as applicable.

(4) GAO REVIEW OF WAIVER OF INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall issue a report describing the benefits

and potential risks associated with authorizing the waiver of the information collection requirements described in paragraph (3).

(B) **CONTENTS.**—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall include an assessment of the extent to which a waiver described in paragraph (3) would—

(i) affect the paperwork burden for individuals, small businesses, State, local and tribal governments, and other persons;

(ii) affect the consistent application of Federal laws relating to—

(I) privacy and confidentiality;

(II) security of information; and

(III) access to information; and

(iii) encourage or deter a State or other entity from participating in the voluntary collection of information for the duration of a major disaster or emergency.

(d) **USE BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator may permit a Federal agency other than a disaster assistance agency listed in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (f)(3) to use the electronic information sharing system established under this section for the purpose of facilitating disaster-related assistance if such agency enters into an agreement containing the terms described in paragraph (2).

(2) **AGENCY AGREEMENT.**—An agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall contain the following terms:

(A) The Federal agency shall—

(i) collect, share, maintain, and use disaster assistance information in compliance with this section and any policies of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and any information protection and use policies of such Federal agency; and

(ii) train any personnel granted access to disaster assistance information on the rules of behavior established by the Administrator under subsection (b)(3).

(B) In the event of any unauthorized disclosure of disaster assistance information, the Federal agency shall—

(i) notify the Administrator within 24 hours of discovering any such unauthorized disclosure;

(ii) cooperate fully with the Administrator in the investigation and remediation of any such disclosure;

(iii) cooperate fully in the prosecution of a person responsible for such disclosure; and

(iv) assume the responsibility for any compensation, civil liability, or other remediation measures, whether awarded by a judgment of a court or agreed as a compromise of any potential claims by or on behalf of an applicant, including by obtaining credit monitoring and remediation services, for an improper disclosure that is—

(I) caused, directly or indirectly, by the acts or omissions of officers, employees, and contractors of the agency; or

(II) from any electronic system of records that is created or maintained by the agency pursuant to section 552a(e) of title 5, United States Code.

(3) **PUBLICATION OF AGENCY AGREEMENT.**—The Administrator shall publish an agency agreement entered into under this subsection on the same website as the electronic information sharing system established under this section.

(e) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The sharing and use of disaster assistance information that is subject to the requirements of section 552a of title 5, United States Code, by disaster assistance agencies and block grant recipients shall not—

(1) be construed as a matching program for purposes of section 552a(a)(8) of such title; or

(2) be subject to the remaining computer matching provisions of section 552a of such title.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPLICANT.**—The term “applicant” means—

(A) a person who applies for disaster assistance from a disaster assistance program; and

(B) a person on whose behalf a person described in subparagraph (A) has applied for disaster assistance.

(2) **BLOCK GRANT RECIPIENT.**—The term “block grant recipient” means a State, local government, or Indian Tribe that receives assistance through the disaster assistance program described in paragraph (5)(B)(i).

(3) **DISASTER ASSISTANCE AGENCY.**—The term “disaster assistance agency” means—

(A) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(B) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(C) the Small Business Administration;

(D) the Department of Agriculture;

(E) any other Federal agency that the Administrator permits to use the electronic information sharing system under subsection (d).

(4) **DISASTER ASSISTANCE INFORMATION.**—The term “disaster assistance information” includes any personal, demographic, biographical, geographical, financial information, or other information that a disaster assistance agency or block grant recipient is authorized to collect, maintain, share, or use to process an application for disaster assistance or otherwise carry out a disaster assistance program.

(5) **DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**—The term “disaster assistance program” means—

(A) any program that provides assistance to individuals and households under title IV or title V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.); and

(B) any other assistance program carried out by a disaster assistance agency that provides assistance to an individual, household, or organization related to a major disaster or emergency declared under sections 401 or 501 of such Act, including—

(i) assistance for activities related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation that are authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

(ii) any loan that is authorized under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)); and

(iii) the distribution of food benefit allotments as authorized under section 412 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5179) and section 5(h) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)).

SEC. 3. UNIVERSAL APPLICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) **UNIVERSAL APPLICATION.**—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall develop and establish a universal application for direct Federal disaster assistance for individuals in areas impacted by emergencies or disasters.

(b) **CONSULTATION AND SUPPORT.**—

(1) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out this section, the Administrator shall consult with the following:

(A) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(B) The Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(C) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(D) The Secretary of Agriculture.

(2) **SUPPORT.**—The entities described in paragraph (1) shall provide prompt support to the Administrator.

(c) **SURVEY.**—The application established under subsection (a) shall include a vol-

untary survey to collect the demographic data of an applicant.

(d) **GAO ASSESSMENT ON IDENTITY THEFT AND DISASTER FRAUD IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct an assessment of improper and potentially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for individuals made to victims of major disasters declared in 2020 and 2021, including through identity theft; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that describes—

(A) the prevalence of improper and potentially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for individuals made to registrants who used invalid information to apply for disaster assistance, including through identity theft;

(B) the number of disaster victims whose claims for Federal disaster assistance for individuals were denied due to another individual filing a fraudulent application using their personal identifying information;

(C) the adequacy of existing fraud prevention protocols in place on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s online application for Federal disaster assistance for individuals; and

(D) recommendations for improving the identity verification protocols in place for Federal disaster assistance for individuals.

SEC. 4. REPAIR AND REBUILDING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 408(b)(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “rendered uninhabitable” and inserting “damaged by a major disaster”; and

(2) by striking “uninhabitable, as a result of damage caused by a major disaster” and inserting “damaged by a major disaster”.

(b) **HAZARD MITIGATION.**—Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **HAZARD MITIGATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may provide financial assistance to individuals and households, whose primary residence, utilities, or residential infrastructure are damaged by a major disaster, for cost-effective hazard mitigation measures that reduce threats to life and property, or future damage to such residence, utilities, or infrastructure in future disasters.

“(B) **RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSISTANCE.**—A recipient of assistance provided under this paragraph shall not be required to show that the assistance can be met through other means, except insurance proceeds.”; and

(2) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by inserting “, financial assistance for hazard mitigation under subsection (c)(5)(A),” after “subsection (c)(1)(A)(i)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **HAZARD MITIGATION.**—The maximum financial assistance any individual or household may receive under subsection (c)(5) shall be equivalent to the amount set forth in paragraph (1) with respect to a single major disaster.”.

SEC. 5. DIRECT ASSISTANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 408(c) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)) is further amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **REPAIRS.**—

“(A) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRS.—The President may provide financial assistance for the repair of owner-occupied private residences, utilities, and residential infrastructure (such as a private access route) damaged by a major disaster, or with respect to individuals with disabilities, rendered inaccessible by a major disaster.

“(B) DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide direct assistance to individuals and households who are unable to make use of financial assistance under subparagraph (A) and when there is a lack of available resources, for—

“(I) the repair of owner-occupied private residences, utilities, and residential infrastructure (such as a private access route) damaged by a major disaster, or with respect to individuals with disabilities, rendered inaccessible by a disaster; and

“(II) eligible hazard mitigation measures that reduce the likelihood and future damage to such residences, utilities, and infrastructure.

“(ii) ELIGIBILITY.—A recipient of assistance under this subparagraph shall not be eligible for assistance under paragraph (1), unless otherwise determined by the Administrator.

“(C) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSISTANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided under this paragraph shall not be required to show that the assistance can be met through other means, except insurance proceeds.”.

(b) STATE- OR INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT-ADMINISTERED ASSISTANCE AND OTHER NEEDS ASSISTANCE.—Section 408(f) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking “subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), and (e)” each place it appears and inserting “paragraphs (1)(B), (2)(B), and (4) of subsection (c) and subsection (e)”;

(2) in paragraph (3)(A) by striking “subsection (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), or (e)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(B), (2)(B), or (4) of subsection (c) or subsection (e)”.

SEC. 6. STATE-MANAGED HOUSING PILOT AUTHORITY.

Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(3)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (F);

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (G), (H), (I), and (J) as subparagraphs (F), (G), (H), and (I), respectively; and

(C) in subparagraph (I), as so redesignated—

(i) in clause (ii) by striking “Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the” and inserting “The”; and

(ii) in clause (iii) by striking—

(I) “2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph or” and

(II) “, whichever occurs sooner”; and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—In the case of assistance provided under subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(2)(B), and (c)(4), the Federal share shall be not less than 75 percent.”.

SEC. 7. MANAGEMENT COSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 324(b)(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5165b(b)(2)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE.—A grantee under section 408(f) may be reimbursed not more than 12 percent of the total award amount under each such section.

“(D) CRISIS COUNSELING ASSISTANCE, TRAINING, AND CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES.—A

grantee and subgrantee, cumulatively, may be reimbursed not more than 15 percent of the total amount of the grant award under either section 416 or 426.”.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Section 408(f)(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

(1) by striking “(A) GRANT TO STATE,” and all that follows through “subsection (g),” and inserting “Subject to subsection (g),”; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B).

SEC. 8. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE POST-DISASTER HOUSING STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall—

(1) conduct a study and develop a plan under which the Agency will address the challenges associated with providing housing assistance to survivors of major disasters or emergencies pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), including circumstances in which—

(A) the presence of multiple families within a single household; and

(B) the near loss of a community, with the majority of homes destroyed in such community, with discrete assessments on flood, wildfire, and earthquake events; and

(2) make recommendations for legislative changes needed to address the challenges described in paragraph (1).

(b) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Administrator shall consult with other relevant Federal agencies and stakeholders.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Upon completion of the activities carried out under subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing the study and recommendations required under subsection (a).

SEC. 9. FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR POST-DISASTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) USE OF SERVICES OF OTHER AGENCIES.—Section 201(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) post-disaster assistance.”.

(b) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSISTANCE.—Section 201 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may enter into a cooperative agreement to provide funding to a State agency established under subsection (c) to establish and operate a website to provide information relating to post-disaster recovery funding and resources to a community or an individual impacted by a major disaster or emergency.

“(2) MANAGEMENT.—A website created under this subsection shall be—

“(A) managed by the State agency; and

“(B) suitable for the residents of the State of the State agency.

“(3) CONTENT.—The Administrator may enter into a cooperative agreement to establish a website under this subsection only to provide 1 or more of the following:

“(A) A list of Federal, State, and local sources of post-disaster recovery funding or assistance that may be available to a community after a major disaster or emergency.

“(B) A list of Federal, State, and local sources of post-disaster recovery funding or assistance that may be available to an individual impacted by a major disaster or emergency.

“(C) A technical guide that lists and explains the costs and benefits of alternatives available to a community to mitigate the impacts of a major disaster or emergency and prepare for sequential hazards such as flooding after a wildfire.

“(4) COOPERATION.—A State agency that enters into a cooperative agreement under this subsection shall cooperate with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in developing a website under this subsection.

“(5) UPDATES.—A State agency that receives funding to establish a website under this subsection shall update the website not less than once every 6 months.”.

SEC. 10. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.

Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 431. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after a declaration by the President that a major disaster exists under section 401, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall publish on a website of the Agency an interactive web tool displaying the following information with respect to such disaster:

“(1) The number of applications for assistance under section 408, including a description of the number of applications for assistance related to housing under such section and the number of applications for assistance to address other needs under section 408(e).

“(2) The number of applications for such assistance that are approved.

“(3) The number of applications for such assistance that are denied.

“(4) A ranked list of the reasons for the denial of such applications, including the number of applications for each reason for denial.

“(5) If available, the dollar amount of assistance provided pursuant to section 408 to applicants who are—

“(A) property owners with a household annual income—

“(i) above the national median household income; and

“(ii) below the national median household income; and

“(B) renters with a household annual income—

“(i) above the national median household income; and

“(ii) below the national median household income.

“(6) The estimated percentage of residential property that was destroyed as a result of the major disaster, if available.

“(b) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—The Administrator shall ensure that none of the information published under subsection (a) contains the personally identifiable information of an applicant.”.

SEC. 11. FEMA REPORTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report with respect to fiscal year 2016 through the most recent fiscal year ending before the date of enactment of this

Act, and an annual report for any fiscal year beginning on or after the date of enactment of this Act, describing—

(1) the average amount of individual assistance and individual and household assistance provided under section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) to, and the rate of denial of individual assistance and individual and household assistance provided under such section for—

(A) all individuals;

(B) households;

(C) individuals and households with an annual income under 75 percent of the national median household income;

(D) individuals with an annual income over 125 percent of the national median household income; and

(E) individuals with an annual income between 75 percent and 125 percent of the national median household income; and

(2) an explanation for any factors causing an increase in the rate of denial of the assistance described in paragraph (1), if applicable.

SEC. 12. SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL.

Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For any major disaster for which the President has authorized emergency protective measures for an area within the jurisdiction of a State, tribal, or local government, the Administrator may reimburse the State, tribal, or local government for costs relating to sheltering emergency response personnel, including individuals that are a part of the same predisaster household as such personnel, in exclusive-use congregate or non-congregate settings if the Governor of the State or chief executive of the tribal or local government determines that the damage or disruption to such area is of such a magnitude as to disrupt the provision of emergency protective measures within such area.

“(2) LIMITATION OF ASSISTANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may only reimburse a State, tribal, or local government for the costs of sheltering emergency response personnel under paragraph (1) for such a period of time as the Administrator determines reasonable based in the individual characteristics of and impacts to the affected area, including the extent of damage, the availability of alternative housing options, the availability of utilities, and disruptions to transportation infrastructure.

“(B) MAXIMUM DURATION OF REIMBURSEMENT.—The period of reimbursement under subparagraph (A) may not exceed the 6-month period beginning on the date on which the incident period ends.

“(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘emergency response personnel’ means—

“(A) employees or contracted employees providing law enforcement, fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical, emergency management, or emergency communications services; and

“(B) elected officials, except members of Congress, responsible for the overseeing or directing emergency response operations or recovery activities.”.

SEC. 13. GAO REPORT ON PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the practices, including the accuracy of such practices, that the Federal Emergency Management Agency uses when conducting preliminary damage assessments for the pur-

poses of providing assistance under section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174).

(b) CONTENTS.—The Comptroller General shall include in the study conducted under subsection (a) the following:

(1) A comparison of the process and procedures used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to complete preliminary damage assessments to the process and procedures used by private insurance companies following a major disaster.

(2) A review of training provided to individuals conducting preliminary damage assessments.

(3) A comparison of damage estimates for homes owned by individuals above the national median income to homes owned by individuals at or below the national median income.

SEC. 14. APPLICABILITY.

The amendments made by sections 4, 5, 7, 9, and 12 shall only apply to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2 of House Resolution 1464, the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions to suspend the rules with respect to such measures is vacated to the end that all such motions are considered as withdrawn.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bills.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the en bloc motion to suspend the rules will be followed by 5-minute votes on motions to suspend the rules and pass: S. 3369, S. 4359, H.R. 2250, and H.R. 3630.

This is a 15-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 381, nays 39, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 481]

YEAS—381

Adams	Bost	Castor (FL)	Davis, Rodney	Kelly (MS)	Pingree
Aderholt	Bourdeaux	Castro (TX)	Dean	Kelly (PA)	Pocan
Aguilar	Bowman	Cawthorn	DeFazio	Khanna	Porter
Allen	Boyle, Brendan	Chabot	DeGette	Kildee	Pressley
Allred	F.	Cherfilus-	DeLauro	Kilmer	Price (NC)
Amodei	Brady	McCormick	DelBene	Kim (CA)	Quigley
Armstrong	Brown (MD)	Chu	Demings	Kim (NJ)	Raskin
Arrington	Brown (OH)	Cicilline	DeSaulnier	Kind	Reschenthaler
Auchincloss	Brownley	Clark (MA)	DesJarlais	Kirkpatrick	Rice (NY)
Axne	Buchanan	Cleaver	Diaz-Balart	Krishnamoorthi	Rodgers (WA)
Bacon	Buchson	Clyburn	Dingell	Kuster	Rogers (AL)
Baird	Burchett	Cohen	Doggett	Kustoff	Rogers (KY)
Balderson	Bush	Cole	Doyle, Michael	LaHood	Ross
Banks	Bustos	Comer	F.	LaMalfa	Rouzer
Barr	Butterfield	Connolly	Duncan	Lamb	Roybal-Allard
Barragán	Calvert	Conway	Dunn	Lamborn	Ruiz
Bass	Cammack	Cooper	Ellzey	Langevin	Ruppersberger
Beatty	Carbajal	Correa	Emmer	Larsen (WA)	Rush
Bentz	Cárdenas	Costa	Escobar	Larson (CT)	Rutherford
Bera	Carey	Courtney	Eshoo	Latta	Ryan (NY)
Bergman	Carl	Craig	Espallat	LaTurner	Ryan (OH)
Beyer	Carson	Crawford	Evans	Lawrence	Salazar
Bice (OK)	Carter (GA)	Crenshaw	Fallon	Lawson (FL)	Sánchez
Bilirakis	Carter (LA)	Crow	Feenstra	Lee (CA)	Sarbanes
Bishop (GA)	Carter (TX)	Cuellar	Finstad	Lee (NV)	Scalise
Blumenauer	Cartwright	Curtis	Fischbach	Leger Fernandez	Scanlon
Blunt Rochester	Case	Davids (KS)	Fitzgerald	Lesko	Schakowsky
Bonamici	Casten	Davis, Danny K.	Fitzpatrick	Letlow	Schiff
			Fleischmann	Levin (CA)	Schneider
			Fletcher	Levin (MI)	Schrader
			Flood	Lieu	Schrier
			Flores	Lofgren	Schweikert
			Foster	Long	Scott (VA)
			Fox	Lowenthal	Scott, Austin
			Frankel, Lois	Lucas	Scott, David
			Franklin, C.	Luetkemeyer	Sempolinski
			Scott	Luria	Sessions
			Gaetz	Lynch	Sewell
			Gallagher	Mace	Sherman
			Gallego	Malinowski	Sherrill
			Garamendi	Malliotakis	Simpson
			Garbarino	Maloney,	Sires
			Garcia (CA)	Carolyn B.	Slotkin
			Garcia (IL)	Maloney, Sean	Smith (MO)
			Garcia (TX)	Mann	Smith (NE)
			Gibbs	Manning	Smith (NJ)
			Jimenez	Mast	Smith (WA)
			Golden	Matsui	Smucker
			Gomez	McBath	Soto
			Gonzales, Tony	McCarthy	Spanberger
			Gonzalez (OH)	McCaul	Spartz
			Gonzalez,	McClain	Speier
			Vicente	McClintock	Stansbury
			Gottheimer	McCollum	Stanton
			Granger	McEachin	Stauber
			Graves (LA)	McGovern	Steel
			Graves (MO)	McKinley	Stefanik
			Green, Al (TX)	McNerney	Steil
			Griffith	Meeks	Steube
			Grijalva	Meijer	Stevens
			Grothman	Meng	Stewart
			Guest	Meuser	Strickland
			Guthrie	Mfume	Suozzi
			Harder (CA)	Miller (WV)	Swallwell
			Harshbarger	Miller-Meeks	Takano
			Hartzler	Moolenaar	Tenney
			Hayes	Mooney	Thompson (CA)
			Herrell	Moore (UT)	Thompson (MS)
			Higgins (LA)	Moore (WI)	Thompson (PA)
			Higgins (NY)	Morelle	Tiffany
			Hill	Moulton	Timmons
			Himes	Mrvan	Titus
			Hinson	Murphy (FL)	Tlaib
			Hollingsworth	Murphy (NC)	Tonko
			Horsford	Nadler	Torres (CA)
			Houlahan	Napolitano	Torres (NY)
			Hoyer	Neal	Trahan
			Hudson	Neguse	Trone
			Huffman	Nehls	Turner
			Huizenga	Newhouse	Underwood
			Issa	Newman	Upton
			Jackson Lee	Norcross	Valadao
			Jacobs (CA)	O'Halleran	Van Duyne
			Jacobs (NY)	Oberholte	Vargas
			Jayapal	Ocasio-Cortez	Veasey
			Jeffries	Omar	Velázquez
			Johnson (LA)	Owens	Wagner
			Johnson (OH)	Palazzo	Walberg
			Johnson (SD)	Pallone	Waltz
			Johnson (TX)	Palmer	Wasserman
			Jones	Panetta	Schultz
			Joyce (OH)	Pappas	Waters
			Joyce (PA)	Pascrell	Watson Coleman
			Kahele	Payne	Wenstrup
			Kaptur	Peltola	Westerman
			Katko	Perlmutter	Wexton
			Keating	Peters	Wild
			Keller	Pfleger	Williams (GA)
			Kelly (IL)	Phillips	Williams (TX)

Wilson (FL) Womack Zeldin
Wilson (SC) Yakym
Wittman Yarmuth

NAYS—39

Babin Fulcher Miller (IL)
Biggs Gohmert Moore (AL)
Bishop (NC) Good (VA) Norman
Boebert Gooden (TX) Perry
Brooks Gosar Posey
Buck Green (TN) Rice (SC)
Budd Greene (GA) Rose
Burgess Harris Rosendale
Cline Hern Roy
Cloud Hice (GA) Taylor
Clyde Loudermilk Van Drew
Davidson Massie Weber (TX)
Donalds McHenry Webster (FL)

NOT VOTING—12

Cheney Herrera Beutler Kinzinger
Clarke (NY) Jackson Mullin
Estes Johnson (GA) Pence
Ferguson Jordan Welch

□ 1406

Messrs. VAN DREW and HARRIS changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bills were passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE

RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aderholt (Guest) Kind (Beyer) Napolitano
Bass (Cicilline) Kirkpatrick (Correa)
Brooks (Moore) (Pallone) Newman (Correa)
(AL) Larson (CT) O'Halleran
Cawthorn (Gaetz) (Cicilline) (Pappas)
Conway Lawton (FL) Palazzo
(Valadao) (Wasserman)
Courtney (Bilirakis)
(Perlmutter) Long (Pallone)
Cuellar (Correa) (Fleischmann) Payne (Pallone)
DeFazio Lowenthal Porter (Neguse)
(Pallone) (Beyer) Rice (SC)
Demings (Kelly) Maloney, Sean P. (Valadao)
(IL) (Cicilline) Rush (Beyer)
DesJarlais McBath (Kelly) Sires (Pallone)
(Fleischmann) (IL) Stevens (Neguse)
Green (TN) McEachin Thompson (CA)
(Fleischmann) (Beyer) (Correa)
Higgins (NY) Meng (Rice (NY)) Timmons (Mace)
(Cicilline) Morelle (Rice) Waltz (Valadao)
Jacobs (NY) (NY) Wilson (FL)
(Sempolinski) Murphy (FL) (Cicilline)
Johnson (TX) (Wasserman)
(Pallone) Schultz
Khanna (Neguse)

MAX CLELAND VA MEDICAL CENTER ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3369) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia, as the “Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 359, nays 62, answered “present” 2, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 482]

YEAS—359

Adams Dunn LaTurner
Aderholt Ellzey Lawrence
Aguiar Emmer Lawson (FL)
Allen Escobar Lee (CA)
Allred Eshoo Lee (NV)
Amodei Espallat Leger Fernandez
Armstrong Estes Letlow
Arrington Evans Levin (CA)
Auchincloss Feenstra Levin (MI)
Bacon Ferguson Lieu
Baird Fitzgerald Lofgren
Balderson Fitzpatrick Long
Banks Fleischmann Loudermilk
Barr Fletcher Lowenthal
Barragan Flores Lucas
Bass Foster Luria
Beatty Foxx Lynch
Bentz Frankel, Lois Mace
Bera Scott Franklin, C.
Bergman Fulcher Maloney,
Beyer Gaetz Carolyn B.
Bice (OK) Gallagher Maloney, Sean
Bilirakis Gallego Manning
Bishop (GA) Garamendi Massie
Blumenauer Garbarino Mast
Blunt Rochester Garcia (CA) Matsui
Bonamici Garcia (IL) McEachin
Bost Garcia (TX) McCarthy
Bourdeaux Golden McCaul
Bowman Gomez McClintock
Boyle, Brendan Gonzales, Tony
F. Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Vicente McGovern
Brady Gottheimer McHenry
Brown (MD) Granger McKinley
Brown (OH) Graves (LA) McNeerney
Brownley Buchanon Meeks
Buchanan Bucshon Meijer
Budd Green (TN) Meng
Burchett Green, Al (TX) Meuser
Burgess Greene (GA) Mfume
Bush Griffith Miller (WV)
Bustos Grijalva Miller-Meeks
Butterfield Grothman Moolenaar
Calvert Guest Mooney
Carbajal Guthrie Moore (UT)
Cárdenas Harder (CA) Moore (WI)
Carey Hayes Morelle
Carl Hice (GA) Moulton
Carson Higgins (NY) Mrvan
Carter (GA) Hill Murphy (FL)
Carter (LA) Himes Nadler
Carter (TX) Hinson Napolitano
Cartwright Hollingsworth Neal
Case Horsford Neguse
Casten Houlahan Newhouse
Castor (FL) Hoyer Newman
Castro (TX) Hudson Norcross
Cherfilus Huffman O'Halleran
McCormick Issa Obernoite
Chu Jackson Lee Ocasio-Cortez
Cicilline Jacobs (CA) Omar
Clark (MA) Jacobs (NY) Palazzo
Clarke (NY) Jayapal Pallone
Cleaver Jeffries Panetta
Clyburn Johnson (GA) Pappas
Clyde Johnson (LA) Pascarell
Cohen Johnson (OH) Payne
Cole Johnson (SD) Peltola
Connolly Johnson (TX) Perlmutter
Conway Jones Peters
Cooper Joyce (OH) Phillips
Correa Kahele Pingree
Costa Kaptur Pocan
Courtney Katko Porter
Craig Keating Posey
Crenshaw Kelly (IL) Pressley
Crow Kelly (MS) Price (NC)
Cuellar Khanna Quigley
Curtis Kildee Raskin
Davids (KS) Kilmer Reschenthaler
Davidson Kim (CA) Rice (NY)
Davis, Danny K. Kim (NJ) Rodgers (WA)
Davis, Rodney Kind Rogers (AL)
Dean Kirkpatrick Rogers (KY)
DeFazio Krishnamoorthi Rose
DeGette Kuster Ross
DeLauro Kustoff Roybal-Allard
DelBene LaHood Ruiz
Demings LaMalfa Ruppertsberger
DesSaulnier Lamb Rush
DesJarlais Lamborn Rutherford
Diaz-Balart Langevin Ryan (NY)
Dingell Larsen (WA) Ryan (OH)
Doggett Larson (CT) Salazar

Sánchez Sarbanes Spartz
Scalise Speier Underwood
Scanlon Stansbury Upton
Schakowsky Stanton Valadao
Schiff Stauber Van Dyne
Schneider Steel Vargas
Schrader Stefanik Veasey
Schrier Steil Velázquez
Schweikert Stevens Wagner
Scott (VA) Stewart Walberg
Scott, Austin Strickland Waltz
Scott, David Suozzi Wasserman
Sessions Swallow Schultz
Sewell Takano Waters
Sherman Taylor Watson Coleman
Sherrill Thompson (CA) Westerman
Simpson Thompson (MS) Wexton
Sires Tiffany Wild
Slotkin Timmons Williams (GA)
Smith (NE) Titus Wilson (FL)
Smith (NJ) Tlaib Wilson (SC)
Smith (WA) Tonko Womack
Smucker Torres (CA) Yakym
Soto Torres (NY) Yarmuth
Spanberger Trahan Zeldin
Trone

NAYS—62

Babin Gohmert Murphy (NC)
Biggs Good (VA) Nehls
Bishop (NC) Gooden (TX) Norman
Boebert Gosar Owens
Brooks Harris Palmer
Buck Harshbarger Perry
Cammack Hartzler Pfluger
Cawthorn Hern Rice (SC)
Chabot Herrell Rouzer
Cline Higgins (LA) Sempolinski
Cloud Jordan Smith (MO)
Comer Joyce (PA) Steube
Crawford Keller Tenney
Donalds Kelly (PA) Thompson (PA)
Duncan Latta Van Drew
Fallon Lesko Weber (TX)
Finstad Luetkemeyer Webster (FL)
Fischbach Mann Wenstrup
Flood McClain Williams (TX)
Gibbs Miller (IL) Wittman
Gimenez Moore (AL)

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—2

Rosendale Roy

NOT VOTING—9

Cheney Huizenga Pence
Doyle, Michael Jackson Welch
F. Kinzinger
Herrera Beutler Mullin

□ 1423

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE

RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aderholt (Guest) Johnson (TX) Murphy (FL)
Bass (Cicilline) (Pallone) (Wasserman)
Brooks (Moore) Khanna (Neguse) Schultz
(AL) Kind (Beyer) Napolitano
Cawthorn (Gaetz) Kirkpatrick (Correa)
Conway (Pallone) Newman (Correa)
(Valadao) Larson (CT) O'Halleran
Courtney (Cicilline) (Pappas)
(Perlmutter) Lawson (FL) Palazzo
Cuellar (Correa) (Wasserman) (Bilirakis)
DeFazio Schultz) Pascarell
(Pallone) Long (Pallone)
Demings (Kelly) (Fleischmann) Porter (Neguse)
(IL) Lowenthal Rice (SC)
DesJarlais (Beyer) (Valadao)
(Fleischmann) Maloney, Sean P. Rush (Beyer)
Ferguson (Cicilline) Sires (Pallone)
(Kustoff) McBath (Kelly) Stevens (Neguse)
(IL) Thompson (CA)
Green (TN) McEachin (Correa)
(Fleischmann) (Beyer) Timmons (Mace)
Higgins (NY) Meng (Rice (NY)) Waltz (Valadao)
(Cicilline) Morelle (Rice) Wilson (FL)
Jacobs (NY) (Sempolinski) (NY) (Cicilline)

SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON VA REGIONAL OFFICE ACT OF 2022

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 4359) to designate the regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta as the “Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office”, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 2, answered “present” 2, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 483]

YEAS—418

Adams	Cawthorn	Foxx
Aderholt	Chabot	Frankel, Lois
Aguilar	Cherfilus-	Franklin, C.
Allen	McCormick	Scott
Allred	Chu	Fulcher
Amodei	Cicilline	Gaetz
Armstrong	Clark (MA)	Gallagher
Arrington	Clarke (NY)	Gallego
Auchincloss	Cleaver	Garamendi
Axne	Cline	Garbarino
Babin	Cloud	Garcia (CA)
Bacon	Clyburn	Garcia (IL)
Baird	Clyde	Garcia (TX)
Balderson	Cohen	Gibbs
Banks	Cole	Jimenez
Barr	Comer	Gohmert
Barragán	Connolly	Golden
Bass	Conway	Gomez
Beatty	Cooper	Gonzales, Tony
Bentz	Correa	Gonzalez (OH)
Bera	Costa	Gonzalez,
Bergman	Courtney	Vicente
Beyer	Craig	Good (VA)
Bice (OK)	Crawford	Gooden (TX)
Biggs	Crenshaw	Gosar
Billirakis	Crow	Gottheimer
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Granger
Bishop (NC)	Curtis	Graves (LA)
Blumenauer	Davidson	Graves (MO)
Blunt Rochester	Davis, Danny K.	Green (TN)
Bonamici	Davis, Rodney	Green, Al (TX)
Bost	Dean	Greene (GA)
Bourdeaux	DeFazio	Griffith
Bowman	DeGette	Grijalva
Boyle, Brendan	DeLauro	Grothman
F.	DelBene	Guest
Brady	Demings	Guthrie
Brooks	DeSaulnier	Harder (CA)
Brown (MD)	DesJarlais	Harris
Brown (OH)	Diaz-Balart	Harshbarger
Brownley	Dingell	Hartzler
Buchanan	Doggett	Hayes
Buck	Donalds	Hern
Bucshon	Duncan	Herrell
Budd	Dunn	Hice (GA)
Burchett	Ellzey	Higgins (LA)
Burgess	Emmer	Higgins (NY)
Bush	Escobar	Hill
Bustos	Eshoo	Himes
Butterfield	Españillat	Hinson
Calvert	Estes	Hollingsworth
Cammack	Evans	Horsford
Carbajal	Fallon	Houlahan
Cárdenas	Feenstra	Hoyer
Carey	Ferguson	Hudson
Carl	Finstad	Huffman
Carson	Fischbach	Issa
Carter (GA)	Fitzgerald	Johnson Lee
Carter (LA)	Fitzpatrick	Jacobs (CA)
Carter (TX)	Fleischmann	Jacobs (NY)
Cartwright	Fletcher	Jayapal
Case	Flood	Jeffries
Casten	Flores	Johnson (GA)
Castor (FL)	Foster	Johnson (LA)
Castro (TX)		Johnson (OH)

Johnson (SD)	Miller (IL)	Sempolinski
Johnson (TX)	Miller (WV)	Sessions
Jones	Miller-Meeks	Sewell
Jordan	Moolenaar	Sherman
Joyce (OH)	Mooney	Sherrill
Joyce (PA)	Moore (AL)	Simpson
Kahele	Moore (UT)	Sires
Kaptur	Moore (WI)	Slotkin
Katko	Morelle	Smith (MO)
Keating	Moulton	Smith (NE)
Keller	Mrvan	Smith (NJ)
Kelly (IL)	Murphy (FL)	Smith (WA)
Kelly (MS)	Murphy (NC)	Smucker
Kelly (PA)	Nadler	Soto
Khanna	Napolitano	Spanberger
Kildee	Neal	Spartz
Kilmer	Neguse	Speier
Kim (CA)	Nehls	Stansbury
Kim (NJ)	Newhouse	Stanton
Kind	Newman	Staubert
Kirkpatrick	Norcross	Steel
Krishnamoorthi	Norman	Stefanik
Kuster	O'Halloran	Steil
Kustoff	Obornolte	Steube
LaHood	Ocasio-Cortez	Stevens
LaMalfa	Omar	Stewart
Lamb	Owens	Strickland
Lamborn	Pallone	Suozzi
Langevin	Palmer	Swalwell
Larsen (WA)	Panetta	Takano
Larson (CT)	Pappas	Taylor
Latta	Pascrell	Tenney
LaTurner	Payne	Thompson (CA)
Lawrence	Peltola	Thompson (MS)
Lawson (FL)	Perlmutter	Thompson (PA)
Lee (CA)	Perry	Tiffany
Lee (NV)	Peters	Timmons
Leger Fernandez	Pfluger	Titus
Lesko	Phillips	Tlaib
Letlow	Pingree	Tonko
Levin (CA)	Pocan	Torres (CA)
Levin (MI)	Porter	Torres (NY)
Lieu	Posey	Trahan
Lofgren	Pressley	Trone
Long	Price (NC)	Turner
Loudermilk	Quigley	Underwood
Lowenthal	Raskin	Upton
Lucas	Reschenthaler	Valadao
Luetkemeyer	Rice (NY)	Van Drew
Luria	Rice (SC)	Van Duyne
Lynch	Rodgers (WA)	Vargas
Mace	Rogers (AL)	Veasey
Malinowski	Rogers (KY)	Velázquez
Malliotakis	Rose	Wagner
Maloney,	Ross	Walberg
Carolyn B.	Rouzer	Walt
Maloney, Sean	Roybal-Allard	Wasserman
Mann	Ruiz	Schultz
Manning	Ruppersberger	Waters
Mast	Rush	Watson Coleman
Matsui	Rutherford	Weber (TX)
McBath	Ryan (NY)	Webster (FL)
McCarthy	Ryan (OH)	Wenstrup
McCaul	Salazar	Westerman
McClain	Sánchez	Wexton
McClintock	Sarbanes	Wild
McCollum	Scalise	Williams (GA)
McEachin	Scanlon	Williams (TX)
McGovern	Schakowsky	Wilson (FL)
McHenry	Schiff	Wilson (SC)
McKinley	Schneider	Wittman
McNerney	Schrader	Womack
Meeks	Schrier	Yakym
Meijer	Schweikert	Yarmuth
Meng	Scott (VA)	Zeldin
Meuser	Scott, Austin	
Mfume	Scott, David	

NAYS—2

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—2

Rosendale Roy

NOT VOTING—10

Cheney	Huizenga	Palazzo
Doyle, Michael	Jackson	Pence
F.	Kinzinger	Welch
Herrera Beutler	Mullin	

□ 1434

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aderholt (Guest)	Johnson (TX)	Murphy (FL)
Bass (Cicilline)	(Pallone)	(Wasserman
Brooks (Moore	Khanna (Neguse)	Schultz)
(AL))	Kind (Beyer)	Napolitano
Cawthorn (Gaetz)	Kirkpatrick	(Correa)
Conway	(Pallone)	Neal (Beyer)
(Valadao)	Larson (CT)	Newman (Correa)
Courtney	(Cicilline)	O'Halloran
(Perlmutter)	Lawson (FL)	(Pappas)
Cuellar (Correa)	(Wasserman	Pascrell
DeFazio	Schultz)	(Pallone)
(Pallone)	Long	Payne (Pallone)
Demings (Kelly	(Fleischmann)	Porter (Neguse)
(IL))	Lowenthal	Rice (SC)
DesJarlais	(Beyer)	(Valadao)
(Fleischmann)	Maloney, Sean P.	Rush (Beyer)
Ferguson	(Cicilline)	Sires (Pallone)
(Kustoff)	McBath (Kelly	Stevens (Neguse)
Green (TN)	(IL))	Thompson (CA)
(Fleischmann)	McEachin	(Correa)
Higgins (NY)	(Beyer)	Timmons (Mace)
(Cicilline)	Meng (Rice (NY))	Waltz (Valadao)
Jacobs (NY)	Morelle (Rice	Wilson (FL)
(Sempolinski)	(NY))	(Cicilline)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF- FAIRS INFORMATION TECH- NOLOGY REFORM ACT OF 2022

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2250) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the management of information technology projects and investments of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 2, answered “present” 1, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 484]

YEAS—414

Adams	Bonamici	Castor (FL)
Aderholt	Bost	Castro (TX)
Aguilar	Bourdeaux	Cawthorn
Allen	Bowman	Chabot
Allred	Boyle, Brendan	Cherfilus-
Amodei	F.	McCormick
Armstrong	Brady	Chu
Arrington	Brooks	Cicilline
Auchincloss	Brown (MD)	Clark (MA)
Axne	Brown (OH)	Clarke (NY)
Babin	Brownley	Cleaver
Bacon	Buchanan	Cline
Baird	Buck	Cloud
Balderson	Bucshon	Clyburn
Banks	Budd	Clyde
Barr	Burchett	Cohen
Barragán	Burgess	Cole
Bass	Bush	Comer
Beatty	Bustos	Connolly
Bentz	Butterfield	Conway
Bera	Calvert	Cooper
Bergman	Cammack	Correa
Beyer	Carbajal	Costa
Bice (OK)	Cárdenas	Courtney
Biggs	Carey	Craig
Billirakis	Carl	Crawford
Bishop (GA)	Carson	Crenshaw
Bishop (NC)	Carter (GA)	Crow
Blumenauer	Carter (LA)	Cuellar
Blunt Rochester	Carter (TX)	Curtis
Boebert	Case	Daids (KS)

Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Flores
Foster
Foxy
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C.
Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones

Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCauley
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Norman
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez

Omar
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascarelli
Payne
Peltola
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan (NY)
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schradler
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sempolinski
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Suozi
Swallow
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner

Underwood
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyn
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg

Waltz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton

Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zeldin

NAYS—2

Casten Garcia (TX)

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

DelBene

NOT VOTING—15

Cartwright
Cheney
Doyle, Michael
F.
Ferguson
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Herrera Beutler
Huizenga
Jackson
Kahale
Kinzinger
Mullin
Pence
Salazar
Welch
Yarmuth

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1443

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aderholt (Guest)
Bass (Cicilline)
Brooks (Moore)
(AL)
Cawthorn (Gaetz)
Conway
(Valadao)
Courtney
(Perlmutter)
Cuellar (Correa)
DeFazio
(Pallone)
Demings (Kelly)
(IL)
DesJarlais
(Fleischmann)
Green (TN)
(Fleischmann)
Higgins (NY)
(Cicilline)
Jacobs (NY)
(Sempolinski)
Johnson (TX)
(Pallone)
Khanna (Neguse)
Kind (Beyer)
Kirkpatrick
(Pallone)
Larson (CT)
(Cicilline)
Lawson (FL)
(Wasserman)
Schultz
Long
(Fleischmann)
Lowenthal
(Beyer)
Maloney, Sean P.
(Cicilline)
McBath (Kelly)
(IL)
McEachin
(Beyer)
Meng (Rice (NY))
Morelle (Rice)
(NY)
Murphy (FL)
(Wasserman)
Schultz
Napolitano
(Correa)
Neal (Beyer)
Newman (Correa)
O'Halleran
(Pappas)
Palazzo
(Bilirakis)
Pascarelli
(Pallone)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Neguse)
Rice (SC)
(Valadao)
Rush (Beyer)
Sires (Pallone)
Stevens (Neguse)
Thompson (CA)
(Correa)
Timmons (Mace)
Waltz (Valadao)
Wilson (FL)
(Cicilline)

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice (OK)
Billrakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady
Brooks
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Cammack
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Conway
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene

[Roll No. 485]

YEAS—402

Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Estes
Evans
Fallon
Feenstra
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Flores
Foster
Foxy
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C.
Scott
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez, Carolyn B.
Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hayes
Hern
Herrell
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jacobs (NY)
Jayapal
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kahale
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luria
Lynch
Mace
Malinowski
Malliotakis
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCauley
McClain
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meijer
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Newman
Norcross
Norman
O'Halleran
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Palazzo

LYMPHEDEMA TREATMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3630) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items under the Medicare program, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 13, not voting 17, as follows:

Pallone	Schiff	Thompson (PA)
Palmer	Schneider	Tiffany
Panetta	Schrier	Timmons
Pappas	Schweikert	Titus
Pascarell	Scott (VA)	Tlaib
Payne	Scott, Austin	Tonko
Peltola	Scott, David	Torres (CA)
Perlmutter	Sempolinski	Torres (NY)
Perry	Sessions	Trahan
Peters	Sherman	Trone
Pfleger	Sherrill	Turner
Phillips	Sires	Underwood
Pingree	Slotkin	Upton
Pocan	Smith (MO)	Valadao
Porter	Smith (NE)	Van Drew
Posey	Smith (NJ)	Van Dwyne
Pressley	Smith (WA)	Vargas
Price (NC)	Smucker	Veasey
Quigley	Soto	Velázquez
Raskin	Spanberger	Wagner
Reschenthaler	Spartz	Walberg
Rice (NY)	Speier	Waltz
Rice (SC)	Stansbury	Wasserman
Rodgers (WA)	Stanton	Schultz
Rogers (AL)	Stauber	Waters
Rogers (KY)	Steel	Watson Coleman
Ross	Stefanik	Weber (TX)
Rouzer	Steil	Webster (FL)
Roybal-Allard	Steube	Wenstrup
Ruiz	Stevens	Westerman
Ruppersberger	Stewart	Wexton
Rush	Strickland	Wild
Rutherford	Suozzi	Williams (GA)
Ryan (NY)	Swalwell	Williams (TX)
Ryan (OH)	Takano	Wilson (FL)
Salazar	Sánchez	Wilson (SC)
Sánchez	Sarbanes	Wittman
Scanlon	Tenney	Womack
Schakowsky	Thompson (CA)	Yakym
	Thompson (MS)	Zeldin

NAYS—13

Biggs	Clyde	Rose
Boebert	Gaetz	Rosendale
Buck	Good (VA)	Roy
Cawthorn	Hice (GA)	
Cline	Norman	

NOT VOTING—17

Cartwright	Herrera Beutler	Pence
Cheney	Huizenga	Scalise
Doyle, Michael	Jackson	Schrader
F.	Jeffries	Simpson
Ferguson	Kinzinger	Welch
Grijalva	Mullin	Yarmuth

□ 1455

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE
RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aderholt (Guest)	Kind (Beyer)	Napolitano
Bass (Cicilline)	Kirkpatrick	(Correa)
Brooks (Moore)	(Pallone)	Neal (Beyer)
(AL)	Larson (CT)	Newman (Correa)
Cawthorn (Gaetz)	(Cicilline)	O'Halloran
Conway	Lawson (FL)	(Pappas)
(Valadao)	(Wasserman)	Palazzo
Courtney	Schultz	(Bilirakis)
(Perlmutter)	Long	Pascarell
Cuellar (Correa)	(Fleischmann)	(Pallone)
DeFazio	Lowenthal	Payne (Pallone)
(Pallone)	(Beyer)	Porter (Neguse)
Demings (Kelly)	Maloney, Sean P.	Rice (SC)
(IL)	(Cicilline)	(Valadao)
DesJarlais	McBath (Kelly)	Rush (Beyer)
(Fleischmann)	(IL)	Sires (Pallone)
Green (TN)	McEachin	Stevens (Neguse)
(Fleischmann)	(Beyer)	Thompson (CA)
Higgins (NY)	Meng (Rice (NY))	(Correa)
(Cicilline)	Morelle (Rice	Timmons (Mace)
Jacobs (NY)	(NY))	Waltz (Valadao)
(Sempolinski)	Murphy (FL)	Wilson (FL)
Johnson (TX)	(Wasserman)	(Cicilline)
(Pallone)	Schultz	
Khanna (Neguse)		

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
LABOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JONES) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Education and Labor:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 16, 2022.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: I write today to request to be removed from the House Education and Labor Committee. It has been an honor to serve on the Education and Labor Committee and to work on issues of vital importance to Floridians.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM ACTING
CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the acting chair of the Committee on Ethics:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS,
Washington, DC, November 16, 2022.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that the Committee on Ethics has been served with a third-party subpoena to produce documents in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, the Committee has determined that only partial compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,
SUSAN WILD,
Acting Chairwoman.
MICHAEL GUEST,
Acting Ranking Member.

□ 1500

RECONSIDER HACKENSACK SAFER
GRANT

(Mr. GOTTHEIMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly urge the Hackensack City Council to reconsider their decision to turn down a nearly \$2.4 million Federal grant to hire new firefighters, which the Hackensack Fire Department and I worked very hard to claw back from Washington to New Jersey.

This grant will hire new firefighters to better protect our first responders, families, and help lower property taxes by taking the financial burden off of Hackensack taxpayers.

This week, I stood with the Hackensack Fire Department, the Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey, Hackensack IAFF Locals 2081 and 3172, and Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco to call on the Hackensack City Council to accept this Federal grant.

We know that firefighters will be retiring in the coming years, and the public safety report calls for the city to hire new firefighters. Yet, the city council plans to reject the grant and resubmit it for fewer firefighters.

I will do everything I can to support any revised grant application, but this is a very risky decision that could result in no new firefighters being hired with Federal investment, and that puts people's lives in danger.

Mr. Speaker, we must always look out for our families and get the backs of those who protect us.

RECOGNIZING ASHLEY REES

(Mr. CURTIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of one of my constituents, Ashley Rees, who has been awarded the American Fork High School Visual Arts Sterling Scholar Award.

The Sterling Scholar Award recognizes the talent of students gifted in the arts and sciences in my home State of Utah. This is an impressive award, and I can only think of a few who are as worthy of this award as Ashley.

I have been personally impressed with Ashley's artwork, but also her hard work and her dedication to her growth as an artist. I am thankful to have such young, talented artists like Ashley in my district.

As the Representative for the youngest congressional district in the United States, few things make me prouder than seeing the talent of some of these young constituents.

Congratulations, Ashley. I look forward to seeing you flourish more and more.

NATIONAL VETERANS AND
MILITARY FAMILIES MONTH

(Ms. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Veterans and Military Families Month.

Last week, I joined communities across Wake County to celebrate Veterans Day, a time when we honor the courageous men and women of our Armed Forces who put their lives on the line to defend our democracy.

As the proud daughter of an Air Force veteran, I know that behind every servicemember is a family making sacrifices every day. But thanking our veterans and their families is simply not enough. We must recommit ourselves to providing them with the care and benefits they have earned.

We, in North Carolina, support our veterans. Just last week, Raleigh, in my district, was named the best place in the country for veterans to live.

Mr. Speaker, let's strive to make every community an incredible place for our veterans to call home.

AMERICA FIRST

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, recently we saw yard signs across our Nation proclaiming "America First."

To put America first should mean defending our people against all enemies, foreign and domestic. That is a daunting task, indeed. No nation, including ours, is an island in a world where nuclear weapons, predatory armed submarines, cyber warfare, and space technologies encircle our globe and are ever-present threats.

Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine reminds all of us that no freedom-loving nation can fold its tent. Liberty threatened by known expansionists and fervent regimes threaten world order. Russia is testing the resolve of NATO and our free world.

I am old enough to have lived during an era in which Russia's historic aggression into territory that was not its own extended as far west as East Berlin, Germany.

Russia is repeating its brutal history yet again on the European Continent, a continent in which our Nation's World War II war dead reached 183,588 and globally over 416,800.

Our Nation cannot retreat from our alliances that protect us here at home and the rule of law the world around. Victory to Ukraine.

REMEMBERING THE LIVES OF LAVEL DAVIS, JR., DEVIN CHANDLER, AND D'SEAN PERRY

(Ms. SPANBERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here as a Virginian, a UVA alumna, and a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives to remember the UVA football teammates who were shot and killed earlier this week.

For the University of Virginia, it has been an unimaginable loss for their families, and it has been an unthinkable reality.

This week, we remember Lavel Davis, Jr. We remember Devin Chandler. We remember D'Sean Perry.

Both on the field and off the field, their classmates, their coaches, their professors, and their loved ones saw their commitment to success. They saw their selflessness, their curiosity, and their determination to make the University of Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and our Nation a stronger place.

Please join me in remembering their lives, honoring their memories, and standing strong as their families mourn. We also stand with the University of Virginia student body, professors, the community, the entire football team, and all those who are impacted by this horrific loss.

We also pray for the recovery of Michael Hollins, Jr., as he and his family continue on the long road to healing.

This week has demonstrated the resilience of the UVA community. May we forever remember the lives that were lost: Lavel Davis, Jr., Devin Chandler, and D'Sean Perry.

RECOGNIZING THERESE MCMILLAN

(Mr. DESAULNIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a friend and a dedicated public servant, Therese McMillan, who is retiring as executive director of the San Francisco Bay Area's Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Therese began her work with MTC in 1984 and then moved to the Federal Transit Administration, most notably as the acting administrator from 2014 to 2016. In 2019, Therese returned to the MTC as its new executive director.

Under her leadership, MTC established an Equity Platform to advance policies and make investments that will ensure all residents of the San Francisco Bay Area are considered when discussing the bay area's transit needs. She also helped to establish minimum housing density targets near transit stations to foster ridership.

I have had the pleasure of working with Therese over the years. She has always been smart, kind, and dedicated to doing what is best. Please join me in congratulating Therese on a magnificent career of public service and wishing her the best on her retirement and her nearly three decades of service to our community.

CERVICAL CANCER ELIMINATION DAY OF ACTION

(Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cervical Cancer Elimination Day of Action.

Two years ago, the World Health Organization launched a global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer by 2030. Last year, the WHO announced a partnership with Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of the University of Miami's Health System, designating it the first WHO Collaborating Centre for Cervical Cancer Elimination.

Across the globe, one woman dies every 2 minutes from cervical cancer, even though the disease is preventable, treatable, detectable, and curable.

Here at home, according to the CDC, 13,000 new cases of cervical cancer are diagnosed, and 4,000 women die of this preventable and treatable cancer every year. Cervical cancer disproportionately affects Hispanic and Black women.

Social determinants of health such as income, lack of access to the internet, race, geographic location, and limited access to transportation often impact women's ability to obtain needed prevention, screening, and treatment for cervical cancer. This is why I wanted to highlight Sylvester's work on developing new cost-efficient tests for HPV, improve treatment options to prolong survival, and increasing screening through mobile outreach campaigns.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Sylvester's focus on decreasing cancer disparities across South Florida and beyond.

ABORTION RIGHTS ARE A KITCHEN TABLE ISSUE

(Ms. JACOBS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, the debate is officially over: abortion rights are a kitchen table issue.

Last week, abortion rights were on the ballot in five States. Abortion rights went five for five, not only in what are considered blue States, like California and Vermont, but in a battleground State like Michigan, and red States like Montana and Kentucky.

Abortion was one of the top issues that motivated people to vote. That is because, for me and for millions of women, reproductive healthcare is our healthcare. That is why women showed up at the ballot box to defend abortion rights. That is why we need to do the same in Congress.

The House has already passed legislation to protect the right to access an abortion and contraception and protect those who cross State lines to access an abortion.

We need to do more. The House needs to pass the My Body, My Data Act, to create a new national standard to protect reproductive and sexual health data. The Senate needs to step up and abolish the filibuster so we can finally protect abortion rights at the Federal level.

Mr. Speaker, the voters spoke loud and clear. It is time to hear them and to act.

NEW MEXICANS VOTE TO INVEST IN THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

(Ms. STANSBURY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today after a historic election in New Mexico and across the United States in which voters voted to not only uphold our democracy, our basic rights, but the continued fight to serve our communities. That includes the passage of

Constitutional Amendment 1 to invest in New Mexico's children and ensure that every single child across our State has access to early childhood education and care.

Last week, New Mexicans showed up across the State in every city, in every county, in every community. From Mescalero to Mountainair, from Albuquerque to Anton Chico, from Sandia Pueblo to Santa Rosa, and from Rio Rancho to Roswell and Ruidoso, over 70 percent of New Mexicans voted to invest in early childhood education and care.

New Mexicans believe in our people, they believe in our communities, and they believe that every single child should have what they need to thrive. But we have one more hurdle to cross to make this a reality, and that sits with our body here in Congress.

Because of antiquated laws that were put on the books over a century ago, we must provide concurrence so that our communities are able to tap these funds and make historic investments in our kids.

Today, I urge every single Member of this body to hear our voices, to hear the voices of New Mexicans and our children. New Mexicans want our kids to be able to access the resources they need. They are ready to lead the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to pass this concurring language now without delay and invest in New Mexico, our children, and our future.

□ 1515

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 8454. An ACT to expand research on cannabidiol and marijuana, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 94-201, as amended by Public Law 105-275, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress:

Natalie Anne Merchant of New York.

THE END OF AN ERA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, the House will be leaving town today, heading back to our States, heading back to our districts. Obviously, this will be a week of thanksgiving and, obviously, I wish all of my colleagues well and safe travel. We have much, of course, for which to be thankful in this great country.

But there are great concerns that we face. Today, obviously, we had the speech and the news about the future of Speaker PELOSI. The outgoing Speaker has had a long career in this body, and I wish her well. I wish her the best in the next chapter of her life.

Some are saying it is an end of an era; and I would say that it is only an end of an era if we choose to make it so.

Speaker PELOSI ran this Chamber not terribly unlike her Republican predecessors, and I don't necessarily mean that to be the right way to do things; bills that are cooked up in small rooms among leadership staff and Members of leadership; thousands of pages of legislation dropped on Members at the 11th hour; key pieces of legislation that are shuttled through committee without significant debate and then dropped on the floor.

Sometimes we have what is called suspension votes, where we suspend the rules and we have votes on the floor with no Members here to debate it or discuss it; just take the word of the committees on which I don't serve; amendments on the floor of this body restrained since May of 2016, under both parties' leadership.

Some people refer to this as a cartel. Some refer to it as the swamp. What it is, regardless of branding, we know that it takes power away from the legislators and, thereby, takes power away from the people who sent their legislators here to represent them.

The only way we are going to make this the end of an era is if we change the way we do things, and we should. I am saying this now that there is a Republican majority about to take the gavel. I believe we have to change the way this town works. I believe we have to change the way this body works.

The reason that I introduced the Article I Act in the first Congress that I served in this body, while President Trump was in office, to reclaim power from the executive branch, to say that we must have a voice in these ongoing emergency declarations, some of which date back to the 1970s. The reason that I did that was because I believed it, even though it would have taken power away from a Republican President.

I am wondering now if some of my Democratic colleagues will think, well, maybe that is not a terrible idea if we look ahead. I don't know.

Here, in this Chamber, I am, as a Republican, calling on a fundamental change in the way we do things here; how bills get to the floor.

Most people might not understand that the default rules that would go back to the Jefferson Manual and the basic rules of parliamentary procedure would be that I have the right to be able to offer a bill; and that then you would have the right to amend the bill here on the floor of this body; this being the floor of the House of Representatives.

But what the American people don't know is that every Congress we come

in and we vote on new rules, and we vote on rules that, then, restrict the power of every Member of this body to be able to represent their constituents.

We restrict the power of a Member to offer a bill, to bring that bill to a vote, to have debate on that bill, to amend that bill here on the floor of the House of Representatives. That is the way it works.

Then we even go further. Every week, we fly in and then we have votes on rules, rules that are cooked up among 13 Members of the House of Representatives who sit up in a committee up here, behind these walls, and they vote a new rule, and send it down here; and then the body votes on the rule that then structures debate for the week.

Then can I offer an amendment here on the floor? No. You know why? Because people are afraid to vote.

Members of this body, sent to vote on legislation and to represent their constituents, are afraid to vote. Can you imagine, in the founding of this country, the establishment of this body, the people's House, to go get reelected every two years, to go seek re-election, that we are afraid to vote?

Do you know how many times if I bring up opening the process and opening up the floor of the House, colleagues on my side of the aisle, the other side of the aisle go, well, you know, don't you know that means somebody could bring up a really tough vote.

Well, if you vote "no" on a whole lot of tough votes, like I tend to do, you get kind of used to it, and you get used to what you have to do, which is go explain to your constituents why there ain't no free lunch.

This isn't the United States House of free stuff. You can't just keep passing bills to spend money we don't have to buy off votes. You can't keep voting for bills that have a nice title so that you don't have to go back and explain why you voted, as I did, against burn pit legislation for veterans who need support and help for burn pits. But you vote against it because you don't need another \$675 billion mandatory spending item.

Yet, bipartisan support for a bill because nobody wants to go say no. Nobody wants to go look in a veteran's eye and explain the hard reality of what we need to do in this body.

Nobody wants to say no to a bill that says ALS research. Nobody wants to say no to a bill that says something about helping animals or helping old people or helping kids. You put a nice title on there, then everybody has got to vote for. It doesn't matter which side of the aisle you are on; you have got to vote for it because there is no spending limit. There is no restraint. There is no responsibility.

There is no leadership. There is no check on unrestrained power of the executive branch by this body because this body keeps funding the very tyranny of the executive branch that many campaign against. That is the truth.

My colleagues on this side of the aisle just went out and sought election, where we took the House back. My colleagues on this side of the aisle went out and campaigned against unrestrained Federal power in the Federal Bureau of Investigation; a Department of Homeland Security that refuses to secure the border of the United States; labeling of parents as domestic terrorists.

They went out and campaigned against an energy policy of an administration that is destroying American energy; driving the price of gas up; driving the price of electricity up; destroying the grid of the United States; making us more dependent on China, on Venezuela, on Russia, on Saudi Arabia, on Iran.

It is absurd. We ran against all that stuff, but you know what? A whole lot of my colleagues vote to fund all that stuff; have no problem writing a big old check, both sides of the aisle.

You know why? Because they always have something they want that they are willing to just sign off on a monster piece of legislation, irrespective of the debt that is piling up around the ears of their kids and their grandkids, the destruction of the American Dream that is happening because of that, or the funding of the very bureaucrats that are undermining the freedoms of the United States people every day.

Come to the floor. It has got a National Defense Authorization Act. You come to the floor, and you have got something you must pass. We have to pay for the pay raise for our troops. We must pay for some more planes and bombers and helicopters and missiles.

Don't you know, CHIP, that we have got to go stand up against China. We have got to fund Ukraine. We have got to stand up against Putin.

Great. Let's have a debate on this floor about those things. If you are talking about war, maybe we should declare it. If you think that there is a proxy war with funding, maybe we should debate it on the floor of this body.

Maybe you shouldn't just keep writing blank checks and never have a debate about guns and butter. But that is what we do.

This is where I have got to have a little tough talk to my colleagues on this side of the aisle. What, pray tell, have you heard out of anybody on this side of the aisle that will change any of that?

Yesterday, we had all sorts of conference meetings, debates about our internal workings. I tend to like to keep those meetings confidential and private, but half my dadgum colleagues are tweeting that stuff out in real time.

The fact of the matter is nothing changed. The status quo remains because people want their power. They want their committee chairmanships. They want their gavel. They want the ability to control the power and the purse strings, but they don't want to

look in the mirror to fundamentally change a broken town, a broken House, a broken body, a broken Federal Government that is stepping all over the dreams and the hopes and the future and the prosperity of the American people.

There is not a remote indication that my colleagues on my side of the aisle understand what time it is in America; understand what we are facing. It is not just a campaign statement. It is not just something to go rile up the American people to get elected; to get elected, to get power, to get on a certain committee.

You know what every conversation that has been had in this body, at least on my side of the aisle, since last Tuesday? Hey, what's going on in the Steering Committee?

Hey, who is going to get Ways and Means?

Hey, who is going to get on what committee?

Hey, did the freshmen have their votes? Who is going to be the head of the freshman class?

Hey, who is going to be the Speaker? Who is going to be the whip?

I don't know. Let's figure out what we are going to do; who is going to have power. Who is going to have power; who is going to have power?

The answer is, anybody but the American people. The answer is, anybody but the rank-and-file Members of this body.

The answer is the status quo. That is why people ran—that is why President Trump, by the way, did well in 2016 running against the swamp.

Say what you want about President Trump. He represented a large block of this country that were sick and tired of this town, of this place, of this body, of the people in this room, and it is high time we do something about it.

Stop kissing each other's rear ends, asking and begging for some slot on a committee. We didn't come here to be on committees. We didn't come here to get a title.

The titles around this place, who is in leadership? Leadership. Isn't leadership something you recognize and follow? It is not something you elect.

I didn't come here for second place. I didn't come here—I don't leave my family, I don't say goodbye to my son and my daughter and my wife every Monday and fly up here and spend, 3, 4, 5 days up here and fly back every week, just because I want to earn Southwest points.

I didn't fly up here because I want to sit in rooms and go have a steak dinner and go talk to lobbyists about what needs to be put in a bill.

I didn't come up here to say, well, we have got to make sure we get—don't call them earmarks. No, don't call them earmarks. That is already bad out there. So we are going to call them community-directed spending. Okay, we will call them community-directed spending, the currency of this town.

How are you going to take care—how are you going to get a bridge back

home? That is important. We have floods in Houston. We have floods in Louisiana. They need flood money, right?

We have tornadoes in the Midwest. Well, we need some tornado money.

Well, how do you think you get people to vote for all these appropriations bills that have left your country \$32 trillion in debt?

□ 1530

By the way, 5 percent interest rates, do you know what is going to happen? I am sorry, interest rates going up where they are at 5 percent, do you know what is going to happen to the interest payments? It is going to be another \$600 billion, \$700 billion, \$800 billion. You pretty much just bought a whole second Department of Defense, ladies and gentlemen, with money that you are printing.

How does that sound? Enjoy that, do you? And nobody here has any plan on what to do about it except more of the same.

We will have a lot of speeches about, "Chip, don't you understand? Entitlements, mandatory spending, that is the problem. That is 70 percent of the whole thing."

Well, as a technical matter, that is not incorrect, but we got here because we refused to deal with it. And that is not an excuse to write a blank check for discretionary spending.

Hey, we don't need to be responsible on discretionary spending because the actual problem is the rest of the spending, even though discretionary spending is still \$1.5 trillion, \$1.6 trillion, \$1.8 trillion, \$2 trillion, or is it \$7 trillion? Does anybody know? Does anybody care?

Hey, we shut down the whole country under COVID-19, but hell, we will just write a \$5 trillion check. Why not? That is what we do. We just keep writing checks that we can't cash.

So, what are we going to do? What are Republicans going to do to demonstrate that they get what time it is in America, that they get that there is \$32 trillion in debt, that they get that our borders are wide open? That is not a political campaign speech; it is a reality.

Even Democrats who refuse to acknowledge that our border is wide open are panicked over the title 42 ruling by a district judge because even Democrats who want to ignore the 230,000 or 240,000 apprehensions in October, the 70,000-something got-aways, the 27 dead migrants, they ignore all that, but that 7,000 or 8,000 a day, they can just sort of barely process that.

You get rid of title 42—which, by the way, there is no pandemic reason for title 42 right now. It is literally a Band-Aid that Democrats are using as an, oh, my God. If we actually opened up the borders entirely, we can't deal with 17,000 a day. But that is the truth. That is the reality.

What are my colleagues on this side of the aisle going to do about it? "Oh,

CHIP. We will pass a bill in January. I don't know if it will be H.R. 1, H.R. 2, H.R. 5, but don't worry. We will pass a border security bill."

Well, one, I will believe that when I see it. We don't have a great track record.

Two, so what? Are you going to pass that bill and walk over and convince that great stalwart of defense of our border MITT ROMNEY that he should vote for it? Are you going to convince any of the 12 who just decided to redefine marriage and stomp all over religious liberty over in the United States Senate? Are you going to convince any one of them to vote for a strong border security bill? And even if you do, do you think that Joe Biden is going to sign it?

The question for Republicans is: Are you willing to use the power of the purse, articulated by our Founders in Federalist No. 58 and broadly at our founding, to stop what is happening and the destruction of our sovereignty with wide-open borders that are endangering migrants, killing Texas, having fentanyl poured into our schools, or are you just going to continue the fraud that is the United States House of Representatives?

That is what it is. We don't represent anything at all when it comes to the core values of the American people. We represent power. We represent the quest for power.

Are we going to use the power of the purse to secure the border? Are we going to deal with the National Defense Authorization Act that is currently being negotiated and likely passed out of the United States Senate and sent over to the House of Representatives?

Now, it is hard to hear the Republican leader, Mr. MCCARTHY, say that he thinks maybe the NDAA ought to be pushed to the next Congress. I agree with that. But then what? Then what?

Is the Senate going to pass the same thing right back over, an NDAA that is chock-full of all sorts of non-truly defense-related matters?

Are we going to have an NDAA that is sent over to us that drafts our daughters without so much as a single debate here on the floor about what it means to actually add our daughters to Selective Service?

Are we going to have an NDAA and are we going to support an NDAA that continues to advance vaccine mandates? How many of our men and women in uniform need to be fired? Oh, don't worry, CHIP. We took care of it. It is not a dishonorable discharge. Oh, really. Well, thank you for that grand leadership, GOP, because I am sure it really makes our men and women in uniform feel all that much better when they are forced to leave their service in the United States military with discharge—not honorable, discharge.

I am sure that makes them feel great. I am sure they are sitting around the table this coming Thursday after they got fired because they re-

fused to take a jab in the arm of a vaccine that Moderna and Pfizer made over \$100 billion on with all sorts of questions by legitimate, mainline doctors about the efficacy of the vaccine.

In a hearing that we held just last week off the Hill, because my Democratic colleagues won't hold a hearing on COVID on the Hill, where all three doctors sat on the panel, we asked them: Is there any basis, any reason, for our men and women in uniform to be required to take a vaccine for COVID? The answer was no, no, no. Unequivocal no.

This doesn't do anything significant for transmission. This doesn't do anything to truly help and protect young, healthy men and women who are in the military. They are precisely the population who are the least impacted by COVID.

Yet, here we are today, sitting here in real time while we adjourn for Thanksgiving, and an NDAA is getting debated in the Senate to be sent over here. What will Republicans do about that? I don't know. I don't know.

Are we going to have hearings in this body on COVID itself, the reaction and response to it, the power of government being used against the American people? Are we going to have hearings about its origins, hearings about NIH funding, hearings about mask policy, hearings about what Fauci and Birk knew and when they knew it, hearings about the efficacy of the vaccine, hearings about the side effects of the vaccine, hearings about why only now some of our leadership of this country is going out and saying: Oh, sorry. My bad.

I think it really was just kind of something bad for old people and maybe we really didn't see that maybe we didn't need to freak out and lock down our economy and kill our economy and send our kids to the corners and mask them and shut down our schools and set them back a generation in education. Our bad.

These are real people's lives. This is the greatest economy in the history of the world, and you just shut it down. What in the world? Is anybody on our side of the aisle going to do anything about that?

I haven't heard anything yet. I haven't seen anything yet. All I saw today was a hearing, a press conference talking about Hunter Biden.

Well, that is great. But what are we going to do about Scott Smith, who was targeted by the Department of Justice, the National School Board Association?

What are we going to do about Anthony Fauci? What are we going to do to make sure the American people know and fully understand the collective power of the Federal Government being pointed at and used against the American people?

Because it is happening—COVID tyranny, nurses and doctors forced out of the workforce, the effort under OSHA to try to force employers to mandate

vaccines, the CDC regularly pushing Twitter, Google, and Facebook to flag any dissenters who dared question the orthodoxy and all that the powers that be said that they thought we must know.

How about the CDC purchasing \$420,000 worth of Americans' location data to monitor compliance with lockdowns? Is anybody bothered by that? Is anybody bothered by the government looking at our information, looking at phone records?

How about guns? The FBI secretly coerced Americans to sign forms to voluntarily relinquish their rights to own, buy, or use firearms and permanently register them in the NICS system.

In Delaware, the ATF showed up unannounced to a man's home without a warrant for a surprise inspection. Under Biden, the ATF has revoked 500 percent more Federal firearms licenses.

How about DHS? Documents reveal DHS plans to target inaccurate information on "the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic and the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines." Facebook created a special portal for DHS and government partners to report disinformation directly.

How about the environment? A 77-year-old veteran was sentenced to 18 months in Federal prison and \$130,000 in fines for digging ponds on his Montana property in violation of the Clean Water Act.

The power of government is being used against the American people and our citizens every day. I have heard lots of talk by my Republican colleagues about oversight. Oversight doesn't do any good if you have a handful of hearings and nobody in America knows what is going on.

That is why we should have a coordinated Church Committee-style direct effort to bring together the entirety of the Federal Government's assault on the well-being of the American people and bring that to light to the American people and then specific changes to deal with it.

But I am not sure how much confidence a lot of the American people have that we are going to change anything because you have to actually change something.

We have, immediately following the election, the recoronation of MITCH MCCONNELL in the Senate and the adoption of essentially the exact same leadership team on this side of the aisle.

What is the first thing that happens in the votes? What do Republicans do? In the Senate, 12 Senate Republicans voted for cloture just yesterday to codify other than marriage between a man and a woman and trample on the religious liberty rights of Americans to disagree. That happened yesterday.

MITT ROMNEY, Utah, Trump won 58 percent of that vote in Utah; CYNTHIA LUMMIS, Wyoming, a 70 percent Republican State; SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, a 69 percent Republican State; TODD

YOUNG, a 57 percent Republican State; ROY BLUNT, a 57 percent Republican State; JONI ERNST, a 53 percent Republican State; ROB PORTMAN; DAN SUL-LIVAN; LISA MURKOWSKI; RICHARD BURR; THOM TILLIS; SUSAN COLLINS—Republicans walking away from religious liberty, walking away from the definition of marriage. What better way to signal to the American people and your Republican supporters and voters that you got your personal thing pulled together and you are going to represent them and change what we are doing in this town? Hard to believe the American people are cynical. Hard to believe that.

□ 1545

Yesterday, we had a bunch of votes on rules and procedures in the Republican Conference. It was a private meeting, despite the fact that my colleagues love to leak it out. I don't like to get into what specifically was done behind halfway closed doors, but I will just say this: There wasn't an overall warm and fuzzy feeling about change.

Very little changed. In fact, one of the things that did change was to just pull away from a 200-year-old precedent, dating back to Jefferson's Manual, about vacating the chair. It is my belief that sitting in the Speaker's chair, you would want to make very clear that you are confident that vacating the chair would never be a problem.

Yet, Republicans circled the wagons yesterday. You know why? It is about power. It is about the fear of losing power. It is about the fear of change. It is about the fear of empowering the body to do its thing. It is about the fear of open debate. It is about the fear of regular order. It is about the fear of votes. It is about the fear of taking tough votes.

I don't fear tough votes. But I will say something to my Republican colleagues. Don't talk to me about change or what you think is changing until you tell me about the process you are going to use to bring bills to this floor. Because if I don't have the right to amend it, if I don't have the right to represent my constituents, if I don't have the right to have a voice and you are going to come down and whip me and whip my colleagues to support a bill crammed down my throat by a Rules Committee that I didn't vote for or select, if you are going to tell me I have got to eat that vote, then that is not representative government and that is not the way we should do things.

When you bring a bill to the floor of the House of Representatives through the Rules Committee and it is told to us to be must passed—National Defense Authorization Act, which by the way is not must pass, but is always considered such. Appropriations bills—how many of my colleagues went to the microphone yesterday saying continuing resolutions are destroying our military; we need actual appropriations? You

know what? I do not disagree. But when you offer a rule change to say, I tell you what, if our Senate colleagues will work with us to get the defense bill passed, then maybe we can consider the other things. They are saying: No, no, no, we don't want to bind our hands to the Senate. But that sounds nice, doesn't it?

The truth is, what they don't want to do is give up the ability to do what they always do, which is trying to jam through an omnibus spending bill, with backroom deals cut in order to try to drive up defense spending. I support our defense, I want them to be properly funded, but I don't want them to get more blank checks.

When are we going to have a debate about guns and butter? When are we going to stop spending money we don't have? When are we going to have an honest conversation in this body?

Is it when we turn off those dadgum cameras? Is it when we decide to actually offer amendments on the floor again?

You are not going to change anything if you keep doing the same stuff. That is the truth.

Two days ago, I stood up and nominated my friend ANDY BIGGS for Speaker of the House as the nominee for the Republican Party. Andy did not win that vote. He is my friend. My friend KEVIN MCCARTHY won that vote and earned over a majority of the Republican Conference. That news has been reported.

Virtually everything that we did in that meeting or said in that meeting was literally verbatim tweeted out in real time or leaked to the press in real time. That is the truth.

I have a rule when reporters talk to me about what happened in a meeting, that I tell them it is a private meeting, and I don't think I should talk about it. But when things leak out in real time about what is being said and what is being done, you at some point have to go explain to the people you represent, to your supporters, and people broadly, what you were doing. Because if you can't have a private debate and a private conversation among family and it is going to be made public, then you have got to go explain it.

So allow me to read the speech that I gave in the Republican Conference meeting nominating my friend, ANDY BIGGS. It went like this:

I rise in support of my friend and colleague from Arizona to serve as Speaker of the House. ANDY BIGGS is a proven leader who has demonstrated leadership here in D.C., as well as serving as president of the Arizona State Senate in a slim two-seat majority. He is a committed conservative and a good man.

Andy's candidacy is not an attack on Kevin, with whom a number of us have been engaging and will continue to engage in good faith.

Andy's candidacy is about his courage to stand here today willing to take arrows, the courage to offer a debate

rather than a coronation; the courage to say perhaps, just perhaps, we should consider changing the way we do things in this broken Congress, in this broken town. A town to which our constituents sent us specifically to change it.

While there are many factors impacting last Tuesday's elections, the outcome is not so much murky as convicting.

Our voters, Republican voters, expected a reckoning, and in so doing, they gave us nearly 5 million more Republican votes in congressional elections than my Democratic colleagues.

Yes, redistricting can explain why we gained perhaps a smaller margin than anticipated, but it is not enough. What did we run on?

In the 1990s, we ran specifically on crime and a bold agenda to transform Congress. In 2010 and 2012, we ran specifically on cutting spending.

Meanwhile, this year, bold conservative leadership outside of this city was affirmed enthusiastically by voters. No one better represents that than Governor Ron DeSantis' overwhelming dominance in Florida. But we also saw Governor Lee in Tennessee, Governor Kemp in Georgia, Governor Reynolds in Iowa, and Governor Abbott in Texas, and we saw our old colleague LEE ZELDIN's powerful run for Governor in New York where he fell short but helped flip four seats, because LEE ran on something, crime and the rule of law in New York.

DeSantis ran on something: Fighting COVID tyranny directly and fighting woke-ism directly. Governor Abbott ran on something: Securing the border ravaging Texas.

Meanwhile, in a midterm election against the most radical, leftist, and dangerous White House in American history, we left the Senate in Democrat hands, and we are looking at a three- to five-seat majority in the House of Representatives.

So what do we do? I hear a lot about unity. Amen. But it has to be real unity. If we just say we are unified, it will not do a thing if the Rules Committee jams a disastrous immigration and border security bill, like happened in July of 2018.

Or consider that, to the best of my knowledge, the House Freedom Caucus, which represents about 20 percent of the body, has one member of the Steering Committee, which has 30 people, one member of the 20 standing committee chairs, or respectfully, how about all the PAC money that was spent around this town in favor of leadership-tapped candidates, for example, RODNEY DAVIS over MARY MILLER, two incumbents. That is why I give you that example.

But it is not about any one person or group. It is about empowerment of the whole Republican Conference, not just a select few.

We say we are for limited government, we Republicans, but how do you expect to decentralize the power of

Washington if we can't even decentralize our own leadership structure?

Our Republic is on the edge. Americans and their families are being crushed by a weaponized government, radical wokeness, vaccine mandates, open borders, crime, inflation. Yet voters don't understand how Democrats, who have championed such destruction, still hold so much power and largely avoided the reckoning that we talked about.

We talk a lot about accountability. I ask everyone in this room, how can we hold them accountable if we cannot hold ourselves accountable when we come up short?

Today's voting date—this being two days ago—is an arbitrary date, rushed in an environment where many of our voters believe the system is rigged against them.

A vote for Andy is a vote to shout “stop” and to stand to thwart the status quo. It is a vote to pause and debate. It is a vote to empower every one of us to have a say and to have the ability to use our election certificate to its fullest. It is not a vote against Kevin, but a vote to force us all to the table to figure out how—not if—how we will come together as a party to reshape the Conference rules; rethink the makeup of steering and the very structure and operation of the Rules Committee; and most of all, to lay out a specific agreed-to agenda and battle plan to which we can unite and to inspire and win the minds and hearts of the American people.

Now, that is an internal debate among Republicans. I think it is healthy. I think it is good. The question will be: Will Republicans stand for change, or will Republicans stand up for the continuation of the status quo?

The status quo ain't working. It is not. That is an indictment of both parties. That is an indictment of this institution. It is an indictment of this town.

We come here called to represent the American people. We come here called to engage in debate and discourse.

As I have said before on this floor, how often have you seen a legitimate and robust debate on this floor?

I would ask all the staff who sit in the room to answer, but that is not appropriate. They are the ones sitting here all the time, along with a handful of C-SPAN viewers.

Everybody knows, most of the time, we are preaching to an empty Chamber. Most of the time, if there are a lot of people on the floor, it is only for votes and a lot of back slapping and a lot of “Hey, when is our dinner tonight?” and a lot of “Hey, what are we going to do tomorrow? When are you leaving town? How fast can we leave town? How quickly can we get to the airport? Chip, don't demand another vote, dang it. I have got to get to my tee time back home.”

Yeah, but when was the last time you saw a rigorous debate? Yeah, okay, I know we sometimes have the majority

leader and the whip go back and forth on a Thursday afternoon or a Friday for an hour. But it is all talking points, it is all posturing, it is all back and forth to say, let's go out on the steps and give our speeches.

When was the last time you had—let's sit here for 3 hours and let's debate Ukraine. All of us, let's carve out time, how about 5 days? Let's debate Ukraine. We have given them \$70 billion, and now the administration is asking for \$37 billion more.

Any of y'all got \$107 billion sitting around? Well, guess what, neither do we. We are just going to print more money. We are just going to print more money, send it to Ukraine, allegedly for a helpful goal of trying to help Zelenskyy stand up against Putin.

Where is all that money going? Is any of that money going into the hands of certain companies who are then turning around and sending it to certain politicians here? Certain stories seem to indicate so.

Any of that money going to oligarchs in Ukraine? Any of that money getting into the hands of China? A lot of stories about all of that.

I am not even talking about accountability yet. I am just saying that if we are going to vote on another \$37 billion for Ukraine, shouldn't we debate it? Are we at war, or aren't we? Do we have advisers there or not? Is it in our national security or not? Is it helping stability around the globe or not? Is it actually good for the people of Ukraine, bad for Putin's power?

□ 1600

And there is a lot of good debates around all that. The answer might be “yes” to some of those, “no” to some of those. I will just throw it out there. Has anybody seen a debate like that on the floor of the United States House of Representatives? I have not. And I am here. A few people have come down and given speeches. That is not the same thing. That is not the same thing as an actual debate.

The American people expect us to do our job. I expect and believe that Republicans will end the absurdity of a closed-down Capitol; the absurdity of magnetometers to go onto the floor of the House; the absurdity of proxy voting, proxy voting extended by the current Speaker until December 25th, when Santa Claus is going to bring home the magic day when COVID disappears. Obviously absurd.

Our goal and our intent is to open up this body and to restore the people's House. That has to be our goal. That has to be our mission. Our mission as Republicans cannot be power for the sake of it. I would ask or suggest to my Democratic colleagues that their mission should not be opposition just for the sake of it.

I am proud that I have one of the higher voting records against my own party than most of the people in my party. I believe that is attached to some amount of consistency and not

attached to the whip or attached to the party power structure. It doesn't mean I am right. I mean, I think I am. But what it means is that I have got some guiding principles that I think ought to guide how I vote. And it shouldn't be just because we are in shirts and skins or, you know, red shirts-green shirts, blue shirts-red shirts. It shouldn't be that way.

We should be able to be united on taking power back from the executive branch and restoring it to Congress.

We should be united on sovereignty of our Nation and defense of our borders to ensure that cartels don't exploit them for human tragedy, sex trafficking, fentanyl pouring in and killing American people.

We should be united on a strong national defense used sparingly but forcefully, not entangled in never-ending battles, and not blank checks to countries representing proxy wars.

We should be united in trying to figure out how to solve our fiscal crisis that is killing our country.

Every one of us should wake up, we should literally not be going home right now. We shouldn't even go home for Thanksgiving. It is so bad and such a crisis; we should not leave here until we have a plan to stop spending money we don't have.

I will go ahead and say it right here, everything should be on the table. But we won't do that because if somebody brings up mandatory spending, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will run ads like they did against Paul Ryan saying, you are pushing granny off the cliff if you dare say something about Social Security or Medicare. You mean to say there is not a single dollar that we can save out of that without it being pushing granny off the cliff?

On my side of the aisle, they will not touch defense spending. If you do, it is sacrilegious. You cannot touch defense spending. Chip, we need more. It doesn't matter what we are going to do with that. We need more. You mean, there is not a single dollar we can't save at the Department of Defense? There is not a single dollar we can't repurpose? There is no way to make that run more efficiently, more effectively to have a strong military force that will kill bad guys and blow things up when necessary? I think we can do that. We should be united in that.

You can't keep spending money you don't have. You can't have open borders and a lack of sovereignty. You can't. If we can't unite on that, what in the world are we going to unite on?

This body is supposed to, even in our disagreement, stand athwart the executive branch extending beyond the powers given it in the Constitution. It is supposed to. Yet we routinely give the executive branch open-ended, long runways of power. And we both do it. And we know we do it. Why shouldn't we unite to restrain the executive branch if you actually believe in separation of powers?

I will say right here and stipulate, I don't care who is in the White House. I

don't want the President and the executive branch to have unlimited power. I introduced a bill under Trump. I will introduce that bill, and I have reintroduced it under Biden. I will introduce it again in January of 2025 if I am here, no matter who the President is.

We have got the American people right now trying to figure out what they are going to pass down to their kids and grandkids. I have got staff, 25, 27, 28, 30 years old saying, am I going to be able to buy a house? Literally. Look around the country. Pulling it up on maps, saying, how am I going to afford this? How do I afford a half million dollar house with 7, 8 percent interest rates? All the families across the country are trying to figure that out.

They are trying to figure out why they are increasingly concerned about their safety and well-being.

They are trying to figure out why kids in their schools are dying from fentanyl.

They are trying to figure out why we can't just agree that there are men and there are women, and we can acknowledge that we can build our society around that without that being hate.

These are fundamental truths, fundamental elements of our society and how we organize ourselves. We have got to find a way as a body, on both sides of the aisle, to bring back common sense, normalcy, and in this Chamber regular order. Or nothing will ever change.

I am strongly of the belief that we must change. I have tried to work with colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I have introduced legislation on a bipartisan basis. I have passed legislation on a bipartisan basis despite being, I think by any objective measure, on the more conservative end of the spectrum of this body.

I don't care whether there's a D or an R after your name, I am going to tell you what I think, and that is directed at my colleagues on my side of the aisle, running around back-slapping about getting the majority. The majority and having the majority is absolutely useless if we are unwilling to change. We have to change the way we do things around here.

We have to empower Members of this body to have a say in what is brought to the floor, to have a say to amend the legislation, a say in open and real and true debate that is driven by a desire to lead this country forward on the most basic of terms.

Open up the Constitution. Look at the powers granted in Article I, Section 8. Ask yourself whether what we are doing is connected to those powers, and then ask yourself if we are not a stronger, freer, better society if we can agree to disagree and push decision-making as close to the people and families and communities and local and State leaders so that we can actually have a Republic united around ideals and not at each other's throats because that is what we are, because we are trying to make decisions in this town

for everybody. And that is both sides of the aisle.

Federalism is not just some quaint word you talk about. It is actually central to the health of this Republic. We cannot function if we can't agree to disagree, and you can only agree to disagree if you are not trying to solve every problem for every person and every family in every walk of life in this Chamber doing everything and actually accomplishing nothing.

The beauty and the structure of this Republic and its founding is in the diffusion of power away from any one person, any one entity, the diffusion of power across three branches of government, the diffusion of power among Federal, State, and local government. That is the greatness of this country.

It is the essence of the great American experiment, that we trust the people, that we allow the people to prosper according to their own work, that we help each other, that civil society matters.

But we fundamentally broke not just this institution, we are breaking our country because we believe that an unlimited checkbook gives us the right to buy votes with it. And by doing it, you are breaking the spirit of the country. You are taking away the value of work. You are taking away the value of responsibility.

It is not just a campaign effort to buy student votes by paying off student loans so you can be nice. You just destroyed the entire ethic of responsibility of a woman like my wife, the daughter of a single mom who went to college, made decisions about what college she would go to based on the cost of that tuition, who took on loans, who then took every step to pay them back, who drove a crappy little car in order to pay her loans off. What do you say to her and every other American like her who did it the right way? You just say, Here you go, we are going to pay off your student loans.

That is just one example of thousands, and my side of the aisle is just as guilty. Another blank check to solve something, a disease or an illness, another blank check because Ukraine, another blank check because you don't dare look a farmer in the eye when the farm bill comes up and say, look, man, I am sorry, but farm plus SNAP equals a whole lot of debt, and we can't keep writing a blank check.

How about another blank check for subsidies for unreliable energy? Here you go. Here is another check to buy off another company to destroy our grid, destroy our way of life, destroy American energy through a blank check.

We are literally destroying the soul of the country every day we walk into this Chamber, and that is not a good legacy. Everybody just walks around acting like, well, one day the think tanks and the world will come together, we will solve all the mandatory spending problems. That is the real deal. Stop writing blank checks. Actu-

ally have the responsibility to do your job.

I am optimistic about the American people and always have been, and there is a large bloc of the American people who are not going to just walk away from the Republic that they inherited from their parents and grandparents and those that fought, bled, and died for this country. They are not going to walk away from the American Dream for their kids and grandkids. But this body, every day that we meet, we make it harder for them.

Why don't we stop that? Why don't we agree together to sit down and do the hard work that is required of us to do it the right way? To spend within our means? To follow the constitutional order? To limit our affairs to the consequential things that unite our Republic rather than meddling in the affairs of every American and every State and every local government? Why can we not sit down and agree to disagree and push decisions of disagreement down to the people, where they belong, and do our basic duty step by step. That is our calling. That is our opportunity. When you have a change of power and a change of leadership, it is our duty to follow the constitutional order. It is our duty to do it the right way. It is our duty to use the powers granted in the people's House to stand up in defense of the people who send us here to represent them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1615

ISSUES MAINSTREAM MEDIA IGNORES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about some issues that I feel the mainstream media is ignoring. If anybody is listening here today, please put them on page one where they ought to be.

The first issue I am going to talk about is Ukraine.

I have felt all along that this is a disaster. It is obviously a disaster for all the family members of both the military and the civilians who have died during this conflict. It has the potential to become a huge disaster for the other countries in Europe and the United States of America, given the potential of what Russia is able to do.

Nevertheless, until apparently very recently maybe, the Biden administration has not been looking for an end to this war. Now, maybe the United States cannot broker an end, but maybe France or Turkey or Israel can. They should be encouraged to go down that path.

Every day the war continues, more people die. Every day the war continues, it is more of an economic catastrophe to Russia, an economic catastrophe even more to Ukraine.

In the relatively recent background, we had huge numbers of a much closer relationship with Russia, and I thought Russia was moving slowly toward being a more westernized country, having McDonald's and what have you.

But in any event, the sooner this war wraps up, the better. Above all, the sooner the war wraps up, the less likely it will become a war in which there are huge catastrophes as things get worse. I think there are some of my fellow Members who would not mind getting American troops involved in Ukraine. I do not want to have that happen.

I hope we get a little more pressure out of the press corps to say let's look for off-ramps for both of these countries and see what we can do about beginning a peace, as well.

The next topic that I think hasn't been reported on enough is the border. Just because the border is a mess does not mean we ought to not be reporting the new numbers of people who are coming here every month. They are released every month.

We recently got the totals for October 2022. When I am talking about the numbers here, I am talking about the people who come into the country. My colleagues sometimes refer to the number of people who are met by the Border Patrol. Many of these people are still turned around and sent back. I am not talking about encounters. I am talking about people who really come here.

I think since last Congress came in, we have had two new numbers come out. First of all, we had September 2022. I am going to be talking about the numbers for this year, a year ago, and 2 years ago.

Two years ago in September 2020, 15,000 people came across the border who we really didn't appropriately vet. Last year in September, 116,000 people came across the border that we really didn't vet. This year, 178,000 people in September came across the border. That should be a banner headline in every newspaper in the country. It hasn't been. It should be covered.

Now, let's look at October, the numbers that just came out. Two years ago, in October 2020, a little under 20,000 people entered the country. In October 2021, it was about 99,000, so jumping from 20,000 to 99,000. This year, miraculously, just like September—actually, a couple hundred less—178,000 came across the border.

Again, we go from 19,000 to 99,000 to 178,000. The situation keeps getting worse. I don't think, if there is such a thing as a responsible media, they are doing a good enough job of explaining the degree to which this number is growing. Just because it was a horrible situation and we were at 140,000 in August doesn't mean we ought not talk about the fact that there were 178,000 in the most recent month.

We know, of course, this huge increase in the number of people coming here almost certainly means that there is an increase of fentanyl streaming

across our border. We are at 108,000 deaths a year from illegal drugs in this country. When I think of all the parents, siblings, and children who are without sons or daughters or mothers or brothers or sisters, it just breaks my heart.

That also ought to be a banner headline, and I am sure that this huge increase of evil coming across the border means probably more fentanyl and probably more deaths of tens of thousands of Americans.

We are going to be working on appropriations bills soon, and I sure hope the 108,000 deaths of people every year from illegal drug overdoses in this country—twice the number of people who died in 12 years in Vietnam—is something that Congress takes into consideration when we put together that budget.

The next thing I would like to look at is sad news from the city of my birth adjacent to my district. Earlier this week, Milwaukee had its 197th murder. That is tied for their all-time high. Obviously, we have about 5 weeks to go, so barring a miracle, Milwaukee, like so many other big cities in this country, just has a horrific crime problem—197 deaths.

There will be analysis about it, but I have a feeling that one more time they will not get to the real root cause. To me, the real root cause here in Milwaukee, as in so many other big cities, is a breakdown in the family.

It is true we could use more police. It is true we should not constantly be attacking those police as racists so that they are afraid to do their jobs. But I hope in some of the analysis of the pundits, analysis of the talking heads out there, we talk about the decline of the role of husbands and fathers in families as one of the problems out there.

When I was a child, Milwaukee, depending on the year, had the lowest murder rate of the 25 biggest cities in the country. We were right down there with San Diego. Now, we are hitting records at 197. Given that we have about 6 weeks to go in this year, you are almost certainly going to clear 200 murders for the first time ever.

Please, journalists, pundits, talking heads, when you analyze what went wrong in Milwaukee, how come we are so much worse than we used to be, please look at the broken family, look at the role of fathers in their families, and also look at the role of families and their fathers.

One of the problems we have—and George Gilder talked about this at length—it is very important for men to become part of a family. A 25-year-old guy who is married with two kids at home is much less likely to engage in criminal behavior, much less likely to take illegal drugs, than a 25-year-old guy who is out there on his own without those responsibilities. It is sometimes not talked about. This breakdown in the family not only hurts the kids, but it hurts the men, as well.

If you will notice, the vast majority of people who are committing these

murders are men. We always talk about what we can do about the children, what we can do about the single moms. Let's spend a little bit of time saying what we are going to do about these guys who don't have a family that they are connected with.

In any event, I hope a little bit more thought is given when, later this week, everybody in the Milwaukee area is expected to weigh in on those currently 197 deaths.

My final comment for the press to look into a little bit for today is, earlier this year, there were reports from people who like to pay attention to military matters. Given what I would argue is the recklessness of the Biden administration, we have more danger of war in the future than we have had in a long period of time. There have been articles about aircraft carriers. There were articles regarding training exercises with France.

The aircraft carrier, I think it was the *Theodore Roosevelt*, one of our big aircraft carriers, which costs huge amounts of money. There was a French submarine involved in training exercises with the United States. That French submarine was able to sink that aircraft carrier. I think that should cause concern for people.

I mean, we build these aircraft carriers—first of all, we have about 5,000 people on the aircraft carrier, so if an aircraft carrier ever sinks, you have about 5,000 people dying right there, which by itself is a huge tragedy. Secondly, I think we have to begin to stop and look at: Are we spending a lot of money on fighting past wars?

Aircraft carriers were very important during World War II. They had a use still in the Vietnam war, which is hard to believe was about 40 years ago. They have a use in places around the world. I really believe antimissile defense, cybersecurity, building more submarines of our own would perhaps be a wiser use of our military dollars than having 11 or 12 aircraft carriers. I think they may be more useful in future wars. Hopefully, we will not have another war, but I think if we did, they would be more useful.

I encourage the press that follows this sort of thing to pay a little bit of attention to what we found out when we had training exercises with France, read a little bit about what would happen with the hypersonic missiles that are out there today, and wonder if maybe it is more important to deal with hypersonic missile defenses than aircraft carriers, which I think in major battles with, I will say, first-class military enemies could be sunk relatively quickly, together with all the people aboard the ship, and focus a little bit more on high-tech things.

In other words, look at what war will look like in 2025 or 2024 rather than what war looked like in 1944 and 1943.

So, there are some issues for you all, both the people who like to watch C-SPAN and some issues that should be taken up by our press corps.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1 of House Resolution 1230, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 4 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, November 18, 2022, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-5912. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report titled "2022 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 299b-2(b)(2); Public Law 106-129, Sec. 2(a); (113 Stat. 1658); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5913. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Cost Estimate for the Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund, pursuant to Public Law 117-167; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5914. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Automatic Commercial Ice Makers [EERE-2017-BT-TP-0006] (RIN: 1904-AD81) received November 7, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5915. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps [EERE-2021-BT-TP-0030] (RIN: 1904-AF29) received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5916. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Electric Motors [EERE-2020-BT-TP-0011] (RIN: 1904-AE62) received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5917. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for the Acquisition of Petroleum for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (RIN: 1901-AB56) received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5918. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and

Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for VRF Multi-Split Systems [EERE-2021-BT-TP-0019] (RIN: 1904-AE43) received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5919. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Program, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Part 11 of the Commission's Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System [PS Docket No.: 15-94] received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5920. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Interim Staff Guidance — Safety Review of Light-Water Power Reactor Construction Permit Applications (DNRL-ISG-2022-01) received November 8, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5921. A letter from the Office Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Fitness for Duty Drug Testing Requirements [NRC-2009-0225] (RIN: 3150-AI67) received November 15, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5922. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification for FY 2022 that no United Nations agency or United Nations affiliated agency grants any official status, accreditation, or recognition to any organization which promotes and condones or seeks the legalization of pedophilia, or which includes as a subsidiary or member any such organization, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 287e note; Public Law 103-236, Sec. 102(g) (as amended by Public Law 103-415, Sec. 1(o)); (108 Stat. 4301); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5923. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting agreements transmitted pursuant to the Taiwan Relations Act, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3311(a); Public Law 96-8, Sec. 12(a); (93 Stat. 20); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5924. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Determination Under Sec. 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5925. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification, to provide military assistance to Ukraine, pursuant to Sec. 652 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5926. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Report Number: 005127; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5927. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Report Number: 005065; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5928. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, De-

partment of State, transmitting changes that occurred from March 3, 2022 through August 8, 2022, and additional report on departure of ambassadors, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5929. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Trustees and President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting the Center's audited financial statements for the fiscal years ending October 3, 2021 and September 27, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. 8G(h)(2); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 8G(h)(2) (as added by Public Law 100-504, Sec. 104(a)); (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5930. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's legislative proposal to reduce the frequency of a required Report to Congress regarding excess contaminated facilities; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Armed Services.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2626. A bill to redesignate the Pullman National Monument in the State of Illinois as the Pullman National Historical Park, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-582). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. ESCOBAR (for herself, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 9324. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4400 East Paisano Drive in El Paso, Texas, as the "Enedina Sanchez Cordero Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. JONES, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 9325. A bill to incentivize States and localities to improve access to justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 9326. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to authorize the allocation of the costs of certain interstate electric power transmission lines and electric power transmission lines that are located offshore, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself and Ms. NEWMAN):

H.R. 9327. A bill to establish in the Department of Labor an Older Workers' Bureau, to establish grant programs related to employment of older workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself and Ms. BROWN of Ohio):

H.R. 9328. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a demonstration program to promote collaborative

treatment of mental and physical health comorbidities under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself and Mr. YARMUTH):

H.R. 9329. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow waivers of annual establishment registration fees for small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. CASE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. LIEU, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PORTER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. GUEST, Mr. FALLON, Mr. GIBBS, and Mr. CLINE):

H.R. 9330. A bill to improve the visibility, accountability, and oversight of agency software asset management practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 9331. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to strike the provision of the American Opportunity Tax Credit that denies the credit to students with felony drug convictions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 9332. A bill to conform Federal tax law with the Texas Constitution to allow for the continued benefit to the fullest extent possible from the financial leverage of the Permanent University Fund to the State of Texas; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. LEVIN of California):

H.R. 9333. A bill to update the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mr. ELLZEY, Mrs. KIM of California, and Mr. LUCAS):

H.R. 9334. A bill to amend the National Quantum Initiative Act to make certain additions relating to quantum modeling and simulation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. STEEL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KIND, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 9335. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 410 Franklin Street in Appleton, Wisconsin, as the "Mitchell F. Lundgaard Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York (for himself and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 9336. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require coverage under State plans under the Medicaid program for annual lung cancer screening with no cost sharing for individuals for whom screening is recommended by U.S. Preventive Services Task Force guidelines, to expand coverage under Medicaid of counseling and pharmacotherapy for cessation of tobacco use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in

addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JACKSON:

H.R. 9337. A bill to amend the USA PATRIOT Act to designate critical infrastructures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 9338. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require fairness and diversity in opportunity zone investment and to require minimum investment in controlled-environment agriculture; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. STANTON):

H.R. 9339. A bill to improve the environmental review process for Federal-aid highway projects through the use of interactive, digital, cloud-based platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Mr. STEWART, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 9340. A bill to establish the United States Foundation for International Conservation to promote long-term management of protected and conserved areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 9341. A bill to provide accountability for funding provided to the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Treasury under Public Law 117-169; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 9342. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prevent discrimination against airline passengers with disabilities who use lithium-ion-powered wheelchairs and mobility aids that are safe for air travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 9343. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve access by Indian Tribes to support from universal service programs of the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ (for herself and Ms. STANSBURY):

H.R. 9344. A bill to provide for the withdrawal and protection of certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PHILLIPS (for himself and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 9345. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to improve outreach and education on employee ownership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

H.R. 9346. A bill to amend the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Adminis-

trator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to collaborate with State and local governments and Indian Tribes on vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, research planning, and similar activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself and Mr. PHILLIPS):

H.R. 9347. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to modify requirements relating to certain employee-owned businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself and Mr. MFUME):

H.R. 9348. A bill to amend the Second Chance Act of 2007 to require identification for returning citizens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. CAREY, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mrs. KIM of California, and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 9349. A bill to improve public-private partnerships and increase Federal research, development, and demonstration related to the evolution of next generation pipeline systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PALAZZO, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MANN, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BABIN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. CLINE, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GUEST, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. BUCSHON):

H. Con. Res. 115. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women's Health and Strengthening the Family and urging that the United States be added as a signatory; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio):

H. Con. Res. 116. Concurrent resolution establishing the Commission on Evidence-based Policymaking to review, analyze, and make recommendations to Congress to promote the use of Federal data for evidence-building and evidence-based policymaking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H. Con. Res. 117. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that public health professionals should be commended for their dedication and service to the United States on "Public Health Thank You Day", November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. GREENE of Georgia (for herself, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. NORMAN):

H. Res. 1482. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to

Congressionally appropriated funds to the nation of Ukraine from January 20, 2021 to November 15, 2022; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. COLE (for himself, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HERN, Mr. KIND, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. MANN, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. GUEST):

H. Res. 1483. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Rural Health Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mrs. FLORES, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BRADY, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. HERN, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. ROY, and Ms. ESCOBAR):

H. Res. 1484. A resolution honoring the 2022 World Series Champions—the Houston Astros—and the team's dedicated, iconic manager, Dusty Baker, as well as all of the team's outstanding players who have contributed to making history and proving that anything is possible; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. EMMER:

H. Res. 1485. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 17, 2022, as "National Rural Mental Health Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself, Mr. TIFFANY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. POCAN, Mr. STEIL, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. KIND):

H. Res. 1486. A resolution honoring the victims of the devastating attack that took place at the Waukesha, Wisconsin, Christmas parade on November 21, 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. TRONE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Ms. ESCOBAR):

H. Res. 1487. A resolution recognizing the harm associated with restraints in schools; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NEWMAN (for herself, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. EVANS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MENG, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. POCAN, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. SCHKOWSKY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. WILD, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. TLAI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. WELCH, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts):

H. Res. 1488. A resolution supporting the goals and principles of Transgender Day of

Remembrance by recognizing the epidemic of violence toward transgender people and memorializing the lives lost this year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PETERS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CROW, and Ms. NORTON):

H. Res. 1489. A resolution supporting the designation of the week beginning November 14, 2022, as "National Apprenticeship Week"; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. RUSH:

H. Res. 1490. A resolution expressing support for the Parliament of the World's Religions; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself and Mr. DIAZ-BALART):

H. Res. 1491. A resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of Everglades National Park; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 9324.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 9325.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 9326.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 9327.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 9328.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause

By Mr. BUCSHON:

H.R. 9329.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This resolution is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 9330.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 9331.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 9332.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 9333.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 9334.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 9335.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York:

H.R. 9336.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. JACKSON:

H.R. 9337.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 9338.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, section 8, clause 18.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 9339.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 9340.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 9341.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 9342.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or any Department or Office thereof."

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 9343.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 9344.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PHILLIPS:

H.R. 9345.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 9346.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8,

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 9347.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, §8, cl. 3 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 9348.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 9349.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 222: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.

H.R. 1275: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 1282: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 1283: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 1401: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.

H.R. 1439: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 1946: Mr. FALLON.

H.R. 2143: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 2252: Mr. MRVAN and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 2256: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 2269: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.

H.R. 2489: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 2549: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 2565: Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 2573: Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 2791: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 2794: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 2882: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 2974: Mr. TORRES of New York.

H.R. 2998: Ms. BUSH.

H.R. 3187: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 3352: Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. RYAN of New York.

H.R. 3425: Mr. ESTES, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 3541: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 3733: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 3783: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 3824: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 4057: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 4268: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 4520: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 4624: Mr. GIMENEZ and Mr. TIFFANY.

H.R. 4690: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 4833: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 5035: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 5067: Mr. COMER.

H.R. 5232: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 5468: Ms. CONWAY.

H.R. 5536: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 5905: Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 6268: Ms. PRESSLEY and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 6338: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 6461: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 6823: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 6860: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 6970: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 7073: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. TRONE, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. WILD, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CASE, Ms. MANNING, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. NADLER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. DEAN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. GALLEG0, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CHU, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. HARDER of California, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COURTNEY, and Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 7277: Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 7299: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 7382: Mr. MOOLENAAR and Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 7433: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 7570: Mr. CLOUD and Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 7641: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ELLZEY, and Mr. FALLON.

H.R. 7758: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 7773: Mr. RYAN of New York.

H.R. 7775: Mr. RYAN of New York and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 7932: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 7936: Mr. TIFFANY.

H.R. 7944: Ms. SHERRILL and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 8074: Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 8387: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 8471: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 8557: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 8581: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 8614: Mr. GARAMENDI and Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 8616: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 8643: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 8708: Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 8710: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 8740: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 8767: Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 8800: Mr. RYAN of New York, Mr. SIMPSON, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 8812: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 8913: Mr. FALLON, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 8924: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 8948: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 8981: Mr. RESCIENTHALER and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 9088: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 9148: Mr. FALLON.

H.R. 9157: Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 9158: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 9223: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.

H.R. 9238: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 9245: Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 9253: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 9263: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 9265: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 9279: Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.

H.R. 9289: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 9300: Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. BOWMAN.

H.R. 9312: Mr. JACKSON.

H. Res. 1113: Mr. GOLDEN.

H. Res. 1185: Ms. OMAR.

H. Res. 1390: Ms. SHERRILL.

H. Res. 1405: Mr. CARSON.

H. Res. 1474: Ms. BROWN of Ohio and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H. Res. 1481: Ms. OMAR and Mr. VARGAS.